

Soviets plan Iran-Iraq peace mission

MOSCOW (AP) — Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister Yuri Vorontsov will leave soon for Iraq and Iran in an attempt to end the seven-year war between the feuding neighbours, the government announced Tuesday. Chief Foreign Ministry spokesman Gennady Gerasimov said Mr. Vorontsov would visit Baghdad and Tehran "in the nearest future" to demonstrate Soviet support for a U.N. Security Council resolution demanding an end to the conflict. The G.G.F. Western analysts say the Soviet Union has been Iraq's primary arms supplier during the Iran-Iraq war, but Gerasimov made a point of saying at a press briefing that his government had given no aid to Iran. The United States, Gerasimov complained, is contributing to tensions in the Gulf with its military buildup there and charged that "this recent display of force does not correspond to the spirit of the call of the Security Council to show the maximum amount of restraint." Deployment of naval forces, planes and 4,000 marines in the region "cannot but create anxiety," Gerasimov said. He called on the United States "to abstain from any actions which might lead to the further escalation and deepening of the conflict."

Jordan Times

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جوردان تايمز يومية مستقلة صحفية اردنية عن المؤسسة الصحفية الاردنية

Goria ready to form government

ROME (R) — Prime Minister-designate Giovanni Goria said he was to tell President Francesco Cossiga Tuesday night that he was succeeded in forming Italy's 47th post-war government, ending a five-month political crisis. Christian Democrat Goria, 44 on Thursday, will be the youngest prime minister in the 40-year history of the Italian republic. He has been treasury minister for the past five years. Mr. Goria, who was charged by Mr. Cossiga with trying to form a government two weeks ago, said in a statement he was to confirm he could form the coalition government and present his list of ministers. It was not immediately clear whether the government, formed six weeks after a general election, would be a four or five party coalition. But political sources expected it to be the same alliance of Christian Democrats, Socialists, Republicans, Social Democrats and Liberals which has ruled Italy for the last six years. The ministers are expected to be sworn in by Mr. Cossiga on Wednesday and the government will then face confidence votes in both houses of parliament.

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Masri and Genscher discuss Gulf war

BONN (R) — The Jordanian and West German foreign ministers took time out on Tuesday from attending the Salzburg music festival to discuss the latest efforts to end the war between Iran and Iraq, the Bonn Foreign Ministry said. Taher Al Masri and his West German counterpart Hans-Dietrich Genscher took advantage of mutual private visits to the Austrian city to exchange views about the Middle East, the United Nations-sponsored effort to bring about a peace conference in the region. From the Gulf war viewpoint, the ministers paid tribute to last week's U.N. ceasefire resolution as an important acceptance by the organisation of its political responsibilities, the ministry said. Both men agreed on the significance of the role held by the U.N. secretary-general as a possible mediator in the conflict and both praised Iraq's acceptance of the resolution.

Eid Al Adha begins Tuesday

AMMAN (Petra) — Islamic Chief Justice Sheikh Mohammad Mhaleb announced Tuesday that Eid Al Adha (Feast of the Sacrifice), which follows the annual pilgrimage to Mecca, begins on Tuesday Aug. 4. The announcement follows another by the Higher Council of Judges in Saudi Arabia that the gathering of pilgrims at Mount Arafat near Mecca for the final rites of the pilgrimage would be on Monday and that the feast begins Tuesday. In his announcement Sheikh Mhaleb expressed good wishes to Arab and Islamic nations. More than 18,000 Jordanians are performing this year's pilgrimage in Mecca. Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Sheikh Abdul Aziz Al Khayyat, who heads an official mission to the pilgrimage, met Tuesday with Prince Majed Ibn Abdul Aziz, governor of Mecca, and discussed arrangements for Jordanian pilgrims performing rites inside the Holy City. The minister voiced Jordan's appreciation for the care accorded to the Jordanian pilgrims by the Saudi government.

Jordan gets IDB loan

JEDDAH (OPECNA) — The executive board of the Islamic Development Bank (IDB) has approved a \$15 million loan to Jordan to finance import of refined petroleum products.

Thatcher urges Shamir to reconsider stand on peace forum

TEL AVIV (R) — British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher has advised her Israeli counterpart, Yitzhak Shamir, to reconsider his opposition to a Middle East peace conference, Israel Radio said Tuesday. In a letter to the night-viewing premier, Mrs. Thatcher said a U.N.-sponsored conference provided the only means to achieve Middle East peace and said it would also be an invaluable opportunity to open the gates for thousands of Soviet Jews, the radio said. The radio quoted the letter as saying: "President Reagan and I vowed to work to advance the idea of an international conference and I advise you to reconsider the idea in a constructive spirit." Mr. Shamir's office declined to reveal the contents of the letter and would only say, "It is a private letter and Shamir has no response. He will send Thatcher a reply."

Iraq shoots down Syrian jet; Damascus demands explanation

Baghdad offers to return captured MiG-21 pilot

BAGHDAD (Agencies) — Iraq shot down a Syrian MiG-21 in its air space on Tuesday but said it was ready to hand over the captured pilot to Syria, which called the incident unjustified and demanded explanations.

Iraq, which broke diplomatic relations with Syria in 1980 for helping its Gulf war enemy Iran, said anti-aircraft gunners downed the single-engine fighter at 10:30 a.m. (0639 GMT) near Al Qa'im town, on the Euphrates River some 320 kilometres northwest of Baghdad.

The Iraqi News Agency (INA) said Iraq had told the Arab League of continued Syrian violations of its air space but expressed readiness to hand over the unnamed pilot.

In Damascus, a military spokesman said Iraq's action was unjustified. He said the pilot had taken off from Deir-Ezzor airport

in eastern Syria at 0607 GMT for a training mission and entered Iraqi air space by mistake after losing his way.

"This behaviour is unjustified," and should be officially explained, the spokesman said. "Many similar incidents involving Iraqi planes have occurred, but we have not downed them," he added.

Al Qa'im lies about 20 kilometres inside Iraq, and a military statement in Baghdad indicated the plane crashed close to a phosphate complex 14 kilometres from the border with Syria.

Baghdad accused Damascus

more than three years ago of helping Iranian warplanes attack Walid air base in Iraq's western border area near Syria and later strengthened its air defences in the region.

The Iraqi Foreign Ministry, in a statement on Tuesday, noted the "repetition of Syrian penetration" of Iraqi airspace "despite Iraq's warning to the Syrian government through the secretariat general of the Arab League."

Tuesday's violation is the first reported since July 1985 when Iraq claimed to the Arab League of four Syrian warplanes violating Iraqi air space.

The two countries severed ties in 1979, and the border has been closed since 1982, so was an Iraqi ground pipeline across Syria to the Mediterranean.

Tuesday's was the first such incident involving the two countries since the Syrian President Hafez Al Assad and Iraqi President Saddam Hussein, met reportedly in April to try to narrow their differences.

Iran threatens U.S. and Kuwait

BAHRAIN (Agencies) — Iran threatened on Tuesday to attack Kuwaiti and American targets in the Gulf, stepping up pressure on the U.S. task force helping reflagged Kuwaiti ships run the gauntlet of Iranian guns and missiles in the waterway.

Informed shipping sources said the U.S. coast guard had given Kuwait the go-ahead to part-load the mine-damaged supertanker Bridgeton so it can complete the first round trip in the Gulf by a reflagged Kuwaiti tanker under U.S. escort (see page 2).

Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati told a news conference in Geneva both the United States and Kuwait were helping Iraq by shipping Iraqi oil and threatened retaliation if they persisted.

"Any country which supports Iraq is subject to our retaliatory measures," he said. "In the past we have showed restraint but in future we will not."

His comments follow broad hints from Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq Aziz Monday night that Baghdad would resume attacks on Iranian shipping if Tehran did not give "clear, explicit and

Aziz urges U.N. moves to enforce Gulf ceasefire

PARIS (R) — Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq Aziz called on the United Nations Security Council on Tuesday to toughen its resolution demanding a ceasefire in the Gulf war to include sanctions against Iran. Mr. Aziz said he was convinced that efforts by U.N. Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar to implement the resolution would founder on Iran's hostility. Mr. Aziz, who arrived in Paris from Washington, spoke to reporters after a 45-minute meeting with Prime Minister Jacques Chirac. He said he was coming on French, British and U.S. support for a new meeting of the Security Council and would discuss the issue with the Soviet Union and China.

documented" acceptance of a U.N. Security Council demand for a ceasefire in the seven-year-old Gulf war. "Any partial implementation of the (U.N.) resolution will help the Iranian position," he told

reporters in Washington after talks with U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz.

"A de facto situation is not acceptable to Iraq," Mr. Aziz told reporters asking how long a lull in Iraqi attacks would last. He declined to answer directly, saying the subject was for the military to decide.

There was no immediate comment from the American side on the talks. U.S. officials earlier said Mr. Shultz was expected to press Iraq to continue its halt of attacks on tankers to win more time for U.N. mediation efforts on ending the war with Iran.

Assistant Secretary of State for the Middle East Richard Murphy, however, welcomed Iraq's statement to U.N. Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar that it would accept the resolution passed last week.

"We now support the continuing effort to secure the agreement of the government of Iran," he said.

Mr. Aziz accused Iran of blackmailing and intimidating Gulf states "to achieve a piecemeal

Meese says he did not suspect North was lying

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — U.S. Attorney General Edwin Meese told congressional investigators Tuesday he did not suspect that White House aide Oliver L. North was lying last November when he detailed his Iran-contra activities during a Justice Department interview.

"It certainly looks a lot different to us now than it did then," Mr. Meese said, telling congressional investigators why he did not order Lieutenant-Colonel North's office sealed immediately after the attorney general personally questioned the National Security Council (NSC) deputy on Nov. 23.

"There was no hint to us of any destruction" of documents at that time, Mr. Meese said.

Mr. Meese calmly defended the preliminary Iran-contra inquiry he conducted for president Ronald Reagan last fall, and said there initially was "no hint that criminal activity was in any way implicated."

Mr. Meese said he began his review at first to clear up apparent confusion about the facts surrounding Israel's sale of U.S.-made weapons to Iran in 1985. He then told how his investigators stumbled on a document in Col. North's files describing how profits from direct U.S. sales to Iran apparently had been diverted to the contra rebels in Nicaragua.

Even after personally confronting Col. North, Mr. Meese said,

there was "no obvious criminality" involved. But asked by house committee lawyer John Nields if he realised he was looking into "something other than confusion," Mr. Meese replied, "yes, very definitely. There was a whole new aspect of the situation."

Testifying under oath and without immunity before congressional investigators, Mr. Meese also said "my own counsel" was to support the secret sale of arms to Iran when his opinion was asked in January 1986.

He said he advised the president it was legal to withhold notification of Congress for a brief period.

"There was no one" among President Ronald Reagan's senior advisers who recommended that Congress be told immediately, Mr. Meese recalled.

Mr. Meese was questioned about his preliminary inquiry into the affair last November, an inquiry which many lawmakers have criticised as inept.

Mr. Meese began by reading a 17-page written statement in which he stressed his "limited role in the events" until last November. He said he began his inquiry "plain and simple" to find out what the facts were and to report back to the president.

"Indeed, on Nov. 21, 1986, there was no hint that criminal activity was in any way implicated in the Iranian arms transactions."

Turkey frees Ammarin

ANKARA (R) — Turkish authorities released from jail a Jordanian embassy employee, earlier accused of spying, murder and sabotage, on grounds of diplomatic immunity, Jordanian Consul Mohammad Hilal said Tuesday.

Mr. Hilal told Reuters that Adnan Musa Suleiman Ammarin, 46, held since October last year, would leave Turkey shortly for Jordan.

The Jordanian embassy protested many times over Mr. Ammarin, a translator, pointing out that he enjoyed immunity from prosecution. The issue was raised during a visit by King Hussein to Ankara last month.

Mr. Ammarin and six others were acquitted this month of involvement in the 1985 murder of Jordanian Embassy First Secretary Ziad Al Sati but the prosecutor said he would appeal, which should mean a re-trial.

A military court accepted an appeal court decision that Mr. Ammarin had diplomatic immunity in the spying case, while the sabotage charge over a blast at an ammunition factory was dropped for the same reason.

Mr. Ammarin's wife Arshalois told Reuters her husband was freed on Friday and the couple and their son planned to leave for Jordan shortly, possibly on Friday.

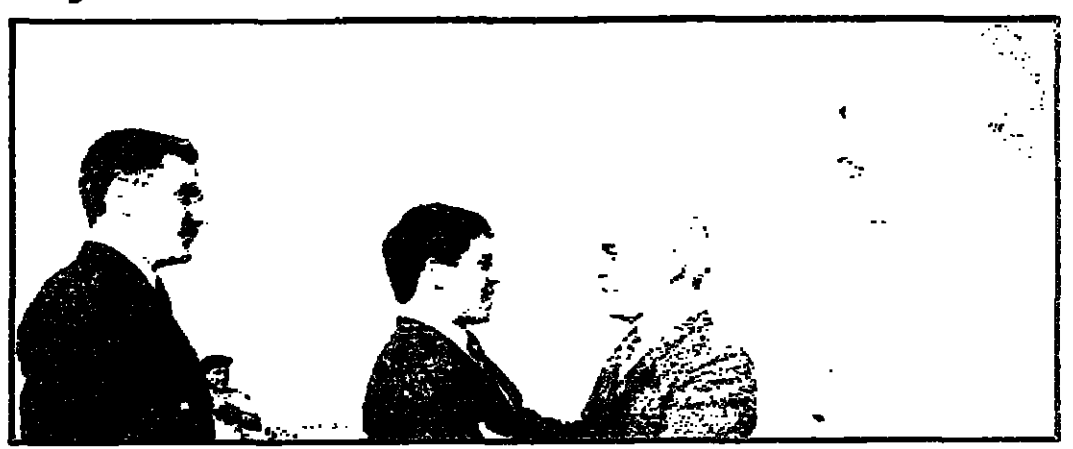
His Majesty returns from Britain

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein on Tuesday returned home from the United Kingdom after a private visit during which he met with British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher to discuss current efforts for convening an international Middle East peace conference.

The King also met in London with King Hassan II of Morocco with whom he discussed developments in the Arab region and the Gulf conflict.

During his stay in the United Kingdom, the King attended a ceremony for the graduation of His Royal Highness Prince Faisal Ibn Al Hussein from a British training school and attended an air show at Fairfield in which the Jordanian national aerobatics team, Royal Falcons, took part.

Upon his return to Amman King Hussein was greeted by His Royal Highness Prince Mohammad, the King's personal representative, Prince Abdullah Ibn Al



His Majesty King Hussein is received upon his return home on Tuesday from a private visit to Britain by His Royal Highness Prince Mohammad, His Royal Highness Prince Abdullah Ibn Hussein and His Royal Highness Prince Faisal Ibn Mohammad (Petra photo)

Hussein, Prince Talal Ibn Mohammad, Prince Ghazi Ibn Mohammad and other members of the royal family.

Also present at the airport to welcome the King were Prime

Minister Zaid Rifai, Upper House of Parliament Speaker Ahmad Al Lawzi and Lower House Speaker Akel Al Fayezi, Chief of the Royal Court Marwan Al Qasem, Court Minister Adnan

Abu Odeh, Armed Forces Commander-in-Chief Field Marshal Zaid Ibn Shaker, Cabinet members, senior officials and high-ranking army officers as well as the British ambassador to Jordan.

Moscow threatens action if Israel develops missile

TEL AVIV (R) — Moscow Radio has issued a fresh warning to Israel not to develop a nuclear missile and pledged unspecified measures to counter what it said was a U.S.-inspired threat to Soviet security.

The Hebrew-language broadcast beamed Monday night at Israel said:

"Every battery of Jericho II missiles may be another mark on the Pentagon's map... aimed at the economic and administrative centres of the Soviet Union."

"There is tangible danger in these launching sites opposite Soviet borders," the announcer said.

Israeli monitors said the broadcast went on to warn of "military and diplomatic steps" against what it described as Israel's first-strike nuclear weapon.

The Geneva-based Defence Review monthly last week said Israel had tested Jericho II missiles to a distance of 820 kilometres and was expected to test them again soon at a range of 1450 kilometres.

The report prompted an initial broadcast by Moscow Radio describing development of the missile as a challenge to the Soviet Union.

The extended range puts not only Arab capitals but also Soviet Black Sea naval bases within reach of the missile. Defence Review says the weapon is capable of carrying a nuclear warhead.

Israel has refused to comment on the report.

A former Israeli nuclear technician, Mordechai Vanunu, last year told London's Sunday Times newspaper that Israel had been producing nuclear warheads for 20 years.

Lower House approves JD140m expenditure beyond '86 budget

By Salameh B. Ne'matt and Nermeen Murad

AMMAN — The Lower House of Parliament on Tuesday approved a supplementary budget law that allows the government to spend nearly JD 140 million outside the budget for fiscal 1986. The approval followed an extensive debate and a pledge by Prime Minister Zaid Rifai that his government would refrain from issuing such budget supplements before securing the approval of the House.

Deputies earlier criticised the government for excessive expenditure which they said was a violation of the Constitution and showed lack of respect for Parliament.

Mr. Rifai told the House his government would present all legislation on budget supplements to the House for consideration and approval so as to allow

the Finance Ministry to issue its final accounts in time. He said that in the case of an urgent need for expenditure and the House was not in session, the government would cover the urgent expenditure through a draft law that would be presented to the House in its first following session.

The prime minister suggested the establishment of a committee grouping the legal and financial committees of the House and a number of Cabinet members to study the question of supplementary budgeting. He said that if the Lower House approved the proposal, it would be referred to the Upper House of Parliament for approval following which there would be a joint session of the two houses to unify the stand of the legislative and executive branches of government on this question.

Mr. Rifai said most of the items in supplementary budget law did

not represent new expenditure in 1986. He said the expenditure came as "rectification of difficult financial constraints occurred in previous years and suffered by some of our institutions and public share-holding companies." He said the government opted to carry out these rectifications all at one time.

Deputy Riad Nawayseh earlier accused the government of increasing spending from "loans and more loans, putting the country under the heavy burden of foreign debt."

"The government does not respect the budget law and does not commit itself to it," he said. "We have showed before that the government has made a habit of supplementary budgets in justifying and extracting legal legislation for excesses and violations of budget laws."

(Continued on page 3)

Shultz and Shevardnadze to meet in September; U.S. tables new proposals

WASHINGTON (AP) — The United States and the Soviet Union set the course Tuesday for a third superpower summit by scheduling a foreign ministers' meeting in September and by moving closer to a treaty to eliminate medium-range nuclear missiles worldwide.

President Ronald Reagan, hailing the progress made at talks in Geneva, said that the climate was now receptive to an accord banning the missiles.

At the same time, White House spokesman Marlin Fitzwater said Secretary of State George P. Shultz and Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze would meet in Washington in September for a session that could lead to a U.S.-Soviet summit meeting.

Fitzwater said progress towards an arms-control agreement had improved the prospects for Soviet leader Mikhail S. Gorbachev to visit Washington for a third summit session with Mr. Reagan.

"If you view arms control as a

process, ... it is an optimistic sign for a summit," Fitzwater said of the Shultz-Shevardnadze meeting.

The Soviets had earlier rejected U.S. suggestions for the foreign ministers' meeting in Washington in mid-July. Soviet Ambassador Yuri V. Dubinin called on Mr. Shultz Monday to convey his government's acceptance of a mid-September session.

The two foreign ministers have traditionally met during or just before the General Assembly's annual fall meeting. The meeting this year begins Sept. 15.

In Geneva, U.S. negotiators on Tuesday submitted proposals they say try to meet Soviet concerns on some issues standing in the way of accord on intermediate-range missiles.

"We will be making new proposals today," U.S. negotiator Maynard Gitman told reporters in Geneva. "We will address all outstanding issues and we will have something to say about each of them."

But he rejected any compromise on 72 Pershing-1A rockets in West Germany, with nuclear warheads which are controlled by the Americans. He said these were part of a "third party" system and not subject to negotiation at bilateral talks with the Soviet Union.

Mr. Reagan, addressing the arms talks during a speech on superconductivity, said that, until last week "the Soviet Union had insisted on what could have been a major stumbling block" to the U.S. proposal to eliminate the missiles.

Last Wednesday, Mr. Gorbachev announced the Soviets were no longer insisting on retaining 100 medium-range warheads in Asia.

Mr. Reagan said a proposal now on the table at the arms talks "would make provision for strict and effective verification and reject transfer of existing U.S. and Soviet ... missiles and launchers to any third party."

18 die in Colombo riots on eve of peace pact

COLOMBO (R) — Rioters turned central Colombo into a smoking battleground on Tuesday in angry protests against plans to sign an historic peace pact in Sri Lanka's capital on Wednesday.

Officials said 18 people were shot dead and 117 injured as hundreds of members of the island's Sinhalese majority, some wielding iron bars and clubs, cut a swathe of fiery destruction through the city centre.

Reuter reporter Marilyn Odchimar said trouble began when police teargassed 5,000 people, led by Buddhist monks and the opposition Freedom Party of former Prime Minister Sirima Bandaranaike, on a sit-down protest against the controversial Indian-backed peace plan.

Police opened fire with rifles after some of the crowd responded by stoning them and starting on a destructive rampage.

At least three buildings including a government ministry and a building housing state-owned newspaper offices were set ablaze and scores of buses, trucks and cars were gutted by fire.

With police apparently unable to control the violence, the rioters ran amok for four hours, smashing and looting shops until helmeted soldiers and sailors were sent to guard flashpoints.

"We are angry because they are going to divide our country," said a Sinhalese youth outside the blazing Ministry for Women's Affairs and Hospitals. The ministry's roof was burned off.

"Death to the traitor J.R.J!" demonstrators scrawled on buses, in a reference to Sri Lankan President Junius Jayewardene, before setting the vehicles on fire.

The peace plan will give the island's Tamil minority semi-autonomous control of Sri Lanka's northern and eastern provinces, which are to be pro-

visionally united under a single administration.

More than 6,000 people have died in four years of bloody Tamil guerrilla insurgency aimed at forging a separate homeland in the north and east and Mr. Jayewardene, 80, is anxious to reach a political settlement.

However, the explosion of violence in Colombo was the latest show of hostility to the controversial proposals from militant Tamils and Sinhalese alike.

It was also the worst outbreak in the capital since July 1983 when Sinhalese riots signalled the start of the ethnic struggle after Tamil guerrillas killed 13 Sinhalese soldiers.

The peace plan is backed by Mr. Jayewardene and Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi, whose country has 50 million Tamil inhabitants and sees itself as protector of their Sri Lankan cousins.

It is opposed by militants at

both ends of the Sri Lankan ethnic spectrum.

Prime Minister Ranasinghe Premadasa, torchbearer of Sinhalese nationalism, has expressed his community's objections and urged a referendum on the accord.

For the Tamils Velupillai Prabhakaran, leader of the main separatist guerrilla group the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam, has called the plan a stab in the back and said his men will not lay down their arms despite Indian pressure.

A statement issued by the Tigers in the island's northern Jaffna peninsula and published in newspapers there on Wednesday said they would ignore the pact and carry on fighting.

The proposed agreement was "an attempt to disarm and enslave us," the statement said. "We discard this meaningless

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Kuwait gets go-ahead to load mine-hit tanker

KUWAIT (R) — Kuwait received U.S. approval on Tuesday to load crude oil aboard the mine-damaged supertanker Bridgeton as the American navy hunted for mines along the vessel's route out of the Gulf.

The Bridgeton, anchored off Kuwait with a hole in its bottom, was set to load 260,000 tonnes of crude oil, or about two-thirds its capacity, informed shipping sources said.

The tanker was holed in the northern Gulf last Friday on its maiden voyage flying the American flag under a U.S. scheme to protect half of Kuwait's tanker fleet from Iranian attack.

The U.S. coast guard agreed to pronounce it sea-worthy after studying a damage report submitted by the vessel's insurers, the American Bureau of Shipping, the sources said.

American navy experts have been surveying the scene of the blast near Iran's Farsi Island, 240 kilometres southeast of Kuwait, for more mines, the sources added.

A U.S. embassy spokesman declined to discuss the operation except to say the navy had "taken some measures... there is some (mine-hunting) activity going on in the Gulf."

He said, however, no comprehensive plan to clear Gulf shipping lanes of mines had yet been adopted and several alternatives were being discussed.

U.S. officials say the mine hit by the Bridgeton was almost certainly laid by Iran as part of moves against shipping linked with Kuwait.

The blast tore a hole nine metres by three in the vessel, punching through a port-side cargo tank and cracking an adjacent cargo tank, a bunker tank and the forward ballast tank, the sources said.

Divers have patched the latter and the Bridgeton is likely to proceed at only half maximum speed of 16 knots to reduce stress on the hull.

Iran has criticised the refloating operation as an escalation of tension in the region.

In Geneva, Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati told a news conference Iran would attack U.S. and Kuwaiti targets in the Gulf if the two countries persisted in backing Iraq.

"Any country which supports Iraq is subject to our retaliatory measures," he said. "In the past we have showed restraint but in future we will not."

Kuwait has also leased three tankers from the Soviet Union and four from the British colony of Gibraltar to win big power naval protection for its vital oil exports.

Kuwait blames Iran for more than 50 attacks on ships bound to or from its ports in the last three years, 11 of them Kuwaiti-owned.

The sources said the Bridgeton would load as soon as a berth was available at the offshore Sea Island terminal 16 kilometres from the main oil port of Mina Al Ahmadi.

A second refloated tanker, the gas carrier Gas Prince, would finish loading 40,000 tonnes of propane and butane bound for Japan on Wednesday and the two ships could sail together under U.S. naval escort as early as Friday, the sources said.

The Bridgeton is to deliver its cargo to customers waiting outside the Gulf off the United Arab Emirates port of Khor Fakkan, where Kuwait has several tankers used as floating storage tanks.

The sources declined to say if the convoy would choose a different route through the Gulf on its return trip to minimise the chance of hitting other mines.

U.S. naval experts say warships in the convoy are highly vulnerable to underwater explosions and only have limited capacity to detect mines in their path.

Military planners had anticipated the greatest threat would come from Iran's high-speed gunboats and Chinese-made Silk-worm missiles positioned at the entry to the Gulf.

Among the options are the dispatch of U.S. mine-sweeping helicopters to the Gulf and the use of Egyptian or Saudi Arabian mine-sweeping ships since America does not have enough of its own in active service, military analysts said.

Until new equipment arrived, the U.S. depended on sonar equipment used from helicopters already with its Gulf fleet, they added.

day (bpd), higher even than the 2.369 million allowed for Iran by the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) and second only to Saudi Arabia's 4.3 million.

It has two other major pipelines — another recently expanded through Turkey and one newly-built through Saudi Arabia — leading safely away from the war zone.

Later on Tuesday, Pentagon officials said the U.S. navy believes it has discovered more underwater mines in the section of the Gulf where the Bridgeton struck one last week.

The officials, who insisted on anonymity, refused to discuss specifics of the effort to search the waters near the Farsi Island. They also refused to say how many mines may have been found.

But the sources said that navy units, apparently including an 18-man team of underwater demolition experts, had begun a preliminary search of the area over the last 24 hours, extending mine-sweeping efforts southwards that had earlier been concentrated closer to Kuwait.

Pentagon spokesman Robert Sims, meantime, said the United States assumes that the mine the Bridgeton hit last week was deliberately planted in the ship's path shortly before it arrived.

Captain of Stark quits navy at reduced rank

WASHINGTON (R) — The navy has decided not to court-martial the captain of the U.S. frigate Stark, damaged in a May 17 Iraqi missile attack in the Gulf, but will allow him to retire at a reduced rank as punishment.

The service announced Monday it would not try Captain Glenn Brindell, 43, on charges of dereliction of duty in the incident in which 37 American sailors died.

Brindell accepted responsibility for the incident and will retire immediately at the reduced pay of a commander instead of a captain, navy officials said.

"This move will mean a difference of about \$100,000 in retirement pay over his lifetime," said one navy official who asked not to be identified.

The navy Monday also accepted the resignation of Lieutenant Basil Moncrief, 35, who was the weapons officer aboard the Stark when it was attacked at night by an Iraqi F-1 Mirage jet, which hit the ship with two Exocet missiles.

Brindell and Moncrief could have been court-martialed and sentenced to a military prison if convicted of dereliction of duty in connection with the incident.

But the navy said Admiral Frank Kelso, commander of the U.S. Atlantic Fleet, allowed Brindell to retire and Moncrief to resign in part because of "the unique circumstances of the incident and its aftermath."

Noting all of the officers and crew of the Stark valiantly fought fires resulting from the attack, the navy said Adm. Kelso was concerned that the prolonged nature of any court-martial "would cause intensified grief on the part of the families of the victims of the attack and stress to the Stark crew."

The attack on the Stark by an Iraqi F-1 Mirage jet has been described as an accident by Baghdad, an explanation which the United States has accepted.

Brindell, Moncrief and a third Stark officer were earlier relieved of duty due to lack of confidence in their performance on the ship, which did not take defensive measures before it was struck by two Exocet missiles fired by an Iraqi jet.

Moncrief had been on the promotion list for lieutenant commander. Instead, he will be separated from the navy without retirement pay because he did not have the required minimum 20 years in the service.

Brindell, who was promoted to the rank of captain last January, told navy investigators that he was not on the bridge of the ship or in the battle control centre. He was in his cabin when the first missile struck the ship.

Adm. Kelso Monday deferred any punishment against Lieutenant-Commander Raymond Gajjan, 32, to the commander of Atlantic Fleet Surface Forces.

'Mighty Mo' to boost U.S. power in Gulf

By Charles Aldinger
Reuters

WASHINGTON — The United States, digging deeper into its arsenal of weapons to impress Iran, has hauled out a military dinosaur with a space-age brain and sent it steaming toward the troubled Gulf.

The World War II battleship Missouri left California on Saturday and is expected to be on station in the northern Arabian Sea next month with its computerised giant guns and cruise missiles ready in case Iran attacks U.S. shipping in the Gulf.

But as the 870-foot (265-metre) "Mighty Mo" and its five escort ships began their trip, military analysts were divided on the need for a battleship group in the area, where the U.S. navy already has the aircraft carrier Constellation and 15 other warships.

In interviews, experts agreed that the 38,000-tonne Missouri, modernised in 1982 at a cost of \$350 million has key advantages over other ships in and around the Gulf.

But some experts wondered if the United States was not powering up for the wrong kind of war.

"I'm extremely wary of the whole operation," said John Pike of the Federation of American Scientists.

"But if you're going to put a ship in that area, perhaps a battleship is the way to go. It certainly avoids the possibility of having U.S. navy pilots paraded through downtown Tehran if they are shot down."

With armour plating up to 40

centimetres thick and protection provided by two cruisers carrying anti-aircraft missiles, the historic Missouri — Japan formally surrendered on its decks at the end of World War II — is regarded by military analysts as virtually invulnerable to Iranian attack.

The ship could stand outside the neck of the Gulf and fire its 2,400 kilometres range Tomahawk cruise missiles with computer-map accuracy at targets virtually anywhere in Iran.

Pentagon sources suggested the Tomahawks are already equipped with electronic data to guide them to "targets in the region."

NEWS ANALYSIS

Closer to shore, the Missouri could use its 16-inch guns to hurl 1,215 kilogrammes high-explosive shells a distance of 35 kilometres.

Each explosive charge, weighing about the same as a family car, can penetrate more than seven metres of concrete.

Retired Admiral Julian Lake, former chief of the navy's Electronic Warfare Command, told Reuters the Missouri and three other refurbished U.S. battleships were very useful in Third World situations.

"There's no doubt — an Iranian missile or aircraft is not going to do much to this ship," he said. "Battleships now have the capability of attacking from a long way off."

Travelling with the "Mo" are the cruisers Long Beach and Bunker Hill, the destroyer Leeward, the frigate Curtis and the

supply ship Kansas City. The ship is expected to stop at Subic Bay Naval Base in the Philippines en route to the Indian Ocean. Its exact date of arrival at Gulf was not known.

Navy officials, who asked not to be identified, said the Missouri will not be used to escort ships in and out of the Gulf but will be stationed outside the waterway in the vicinity of the Constellation battle group.

Nine other U.S. warships are being used in the Gulf itself to escort Kuwaiti tankers flying American flags between the Strait of Hormuz and Kuwait.

The carrier and the battleship clearly are meant as a reminder to Iran, if one is needed, of American retaliatory power if attacked.

But some critics say America's massive military strength has never been in question in the Middle East. The superpower has proved vulnerable to what it calls terrorism — kidnappings, bombings, hijackings.

The Reagan administration pulled American forces out of Lebanon in 1984 — despite declaring that country vital to U.S. interests — because of a truck-bomb attack on a Marine barracks that killed 241 U.S. troops.

President Reagan's deepest crisis, the Iran-contra scandal, arose largely because of White House frustrations over American hostages held by pro-Iranian groups in Lebanon.

Many military analysts in Washington say they believe that even if Iran were to challenge the United States militarily while already embroiled in a debilitating

war with Iraq, it would be unlikely to confront the U.S. battle fleets directly.

Congressional and other experts fear a guerrilla attack that could take place anywhere in the world.

They point out that an anonymous mine blew a hole in the supertanker Bridgeton on the very first American-escorted convoy in the Gulf last week.

Stand Norris, a defence specialist with the private National Resources Defence Council, said putting the Missouri in the region will simply "exacerbate the soup we are getting ourselves into over there."

But he added: "Since 1974, Iran has been a major irritant here and I am certain there are a lot of people in the administration and the Pentagon who would like to hit them without a lot of thought to policy."

One Pentagon official, who asked not to be identified, told Reuters: "This mission is showing the flag — is exactly what the Missouri was recommissioned to do."

"I know if I was in charge in Iran, I would think twice with a ship like that sailing around."

A leader of the pro-Iranian Hizbollah (Party of God) said three days ago that Shiite Muslims were ready to launch suicide attacks against U.S. and French targets in the Gulf.

He spoke during a demonstration in Beirut by 3,000 chest-beating fundamentalists chanting defiance of Western navies and slogans such as "terrorism is our only way."

Iran threatens U.S. and Kuwaiti targets

(Continued from page 1)

solution or a partial halt in the activities in the Gulf.

He said in his meeting with Mr. Perez de Cuellar last Thursday, he made clear that Iran's approval of the resolution must be "clear, explicit and documented."

Iran has criticised the resolution heavily, but has not officially refused to accept it.

In Geneva, Mr. Velayati said Tuesday there would be no ceasefire in the Gulf while Iraqi President Saddam Hussein remains in power.

Mr. Velayati said he would formally respond to the U.N. resolution, Mr. Velayati answered: "As long as the aggressor regime is in power in Iraq, we will not have a ceasefire."

The Iraqi government's ouster has long been a stated Iranian goal in the war. Iran also says it wants the Security Council to brand Iraq as the "aggressor."

Mr. Velayati also issued a statement repeating Iran's complaints about U.S. naval escorts for Kuwaiti tankers sailing under the American flag. It said the refloating and the U.S. naval presence in the Gulf violates the ceasefire resolution.

A "crisis in the Persian Gulf is imminent as a result of U.S. intervention," the statement said, urging political action aimed at

"keeping the conflict from spreading."

Mr. Velayati said Iran was not worried about the possibility of an arms embargo to enforce the ceasefire, something the United States has said it may ask the Security Council to endorse.

Tehran Radio on Monday night quoted President Ali Khamenei as saying Iran would strike with surface-to-surface missiles if Kuwait continued what he called its acts of mischief.

In Paris, French Defence Minister Andre Girard said a French aircraft carrier task force on stand-by would not be sailing for the Middle East immediately. "I have already said that the alert was a precautionary measure," he told reporters.

France broke diplomatic relations with Iran on July 17 in a dispute which began when an interpreter in the Iranian embassy in Paris refused to leave to answer police questions about a wave of bomb attacks in the French capital last year.

Each country has put the other's embassy under siege.

Gulf oil sources, meanwhile, said Iraq had leap-frogged over Iran to become potentially the second largest producer in OPEC by commissioning a new oil export pipeline through Turkey.

Iraq is now able to produce more than 2.5 million barrels per

day (bpd), higher even than the 2.369 million allowed for Iran by the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) and second only to Saudi Arabia's 4.3 million.

It has two other major pipelines — another recently expanded through Turkey and one newly-built through Saudi Arabia — leading safely away from the war zone.

Later on Tuesday, Pentagon officials said the U.S. navy believes it has discovered more underwater mines in the section of the Gulf where the Bridgeton struck one last week.

The officials, who insisted on anonymity, refused to discuss specifics of the effort to search the waters near the Farsi Island. They also refused to say how many mines may have been found.

But the sources said that navy units, apparently including an 18-man team of underwater demolition experts, had begun a preliminary search of the area over the last 24 hours, extending mine-sweeping efforts southwards that had earlier been concentrated closer to Kuwait.

Pentagon spokesman Robert Sims, meantime, said the United States assumes that the mine the Bridgeton hit last week was deliberately planted in the ship's path shortly before it arrived.

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PROGRAMME ONE
15:30 Koran
15:35 Review of programmes
16:55 Cartoons and Children's programmes

17:30 Small Wonder
18:00 St. Elizabeth Hospital
18:30 Arabic series
19:20 Local programme
20:00 News in Arabic
20:40 Arabic series
21:30 Cultural programme
22:00 Wrestling
22:30 News in Arabic
22:50 Wrestling contd.

PROGRAMME TWO
18:00 Cing files a pain
18:30 News in French
19:15 A jour but en Jordanie
19:30 News in Hebrew
19:45 Sports Magazine
20:00 News in Arabic
20:30 Three's Crowd
21:10 The Silk Road
22:05 News in English
22:25 The Wheels

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07:00 Light Music
07:30 Newsweek
08:00 Morning Show
08:30 News Summary
09:00 Morning Show Contd.
11:00 Men from the Ministry
11:30 Songs from Movies
12:00 News Summary
12:05 Readings
12:30 Pop Session
13:00 News Summary
13:30 Pop Session
14:00 News Bulletin
14:10 Instrumentals
14:30 Piano Magic
15:00 Concert Hour
16:00 News in Summary
16:30 Instrumentals
16:50 Old Favourites
17:00 Jordan Weekly
17:30 Pop Session
18:00 News Summary
18:05 New Music
18:30 Music
19:00 News Desk
19:30 Date with a Star
20:00 Evening Show
21:00 News Summary

21:05 Evening Show Contd.
21:55 News Summary
22:00 Evening Show Continued
23:00 News Summary
23:05 Evening Show Continued
23:57 News Headlines
24:00 Close Down

BBC WORLD SERVICE
639, 732, 1323 KHz

07:00 Newsweek 07:30 Dancing a Horrope in Feters 07:40 Soccer contd. 07:45 Reflections 07:50 Financial News 08:00 World News 08:09 24 Hours: News Summary 08:30 Report on Religion 08:45 The World Today 08:50 Newsweek 09:30 Financial News 10:00 World News 10:09 24 Hours: News Summary 10:30 Development 11:00 World News 11:09 Reflections 11:15 Brain of Britain 11:20 World News 12:00 World News 12:09 24 Hours: News Summary 12:30 Financial News 12:45 Look Ahead 12:50 Happy Talk 13:00 Three's Crowd 13:30 World News 14:00 World News 14:09 24 Hours: News Summary 14:30 World News 14:39 24 Hours: News Summary 14:45 Dancing a Horrope in Feters 14:55 A Letter from Wales 14:58 Medias 15:00 Radio Newsweek 15:15 Masterpiece in Miniature 15:25 The Farming World 15:45 Sports Round-up 16:00 World News 16:09 24 Hours: News Summary 16:30 Development 17:00 World News Summary: Outlook 17:45 Report on Religion 18:00 Radio Newsweek 18:15 Keep to the Path 18:30 Two Cheers for July 19:00 World News 19:09 Commentary 19:15 Counterpoint 19:45 The World Today 20:00 World News 20:09 24 Hours: News Summary 20:30 A Letter from Wales 20:35 From Cradle to Grave 20:40 Book Choice 20:50 Sports Round-up 21:00 Newsweek

VOICE OF AMERICA
MW 1260 & SW 1260, 9505, 11740, 11925 and 12510 KHz

06:00 News 06:10 Newsline 06:30 VOA Morning 07:00 News 07:10 Newsline 07:30 VOA Morning 08:00 News 08:10 Newsline 08:30 VOA Morning 09:00 News 09:10 Newsline 09:30 VOA Morning 10:00 News 10:10 Newsline 10:30 VOA Morning 11:00 News 11:10 Newsline 11:30 VOA Morning 12:00 News 12:10 Newsline 12:30 VOA Morning 13:00 News 13:10 Newsline 13:30 VOA Morning 14:00 News 14:10 Newsline 14:30 VOA Morning 15:00 News 15:10 Newsline 15:30 VOA Morning 16:00 News 16:10 Newsline 16:30 VOA Morning 17:00 News 17:10 Newsline 17:30 VOA Morning 18:00 News 18:10 Newsline 18:30 VOA Morning 19:00 News 19:10 Newsline 19:30 VOA Morning 20:00 News 20:10 Newsline 20:30 VOA Morning 21:00 News 21:10 Newsline 21:30 VOA Morning 22:00 News 22:10 Newsline 22:30 VOA Morning 23:00 News 23:10 Newsline 23:30 VOA Morning 24:00 News 24:10 Newsline 24:30 VOA Morning 25:00 News 25:10 Newsline 25:30 VOA Morning 26:00 News 26:10 Newsline 26:30 VOA Morning 27:00 News 27:10 Newsline 27:30 VOA Morning 28:00 News 28:10 Newsline 28:30 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NEWS IN BRIEF

Senate meets Thursday to discuss amendments

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Upper House of Parliament has been called for a session on Thursday during which members will decide on amendments to laws referred to them by the Lower House of Parliament. One is an amendment to a draft law on establishing a higher council for science and technology. Another is a draft law on setting up a curative medical institution and a third concerns Jordanian universities.

Plan to protect environment under review

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment Youssef Hamdan Al Jaber has returned to Amman after attending a conference by Arab ministers of environment which was held in Casablanca, Morocco, July 23. In a statement upon returning, the minister said that the meeting discussed a plan for financing a project to protect the environment in the Arab region. This project will be supervised by a committee which will launch a public awareness campaign. The campaign will warn of the danger of desertification, of the need to protect farm land from the encroachment of cities, and to protect the environment. The minister said that regional and international organisations, financial institutions, and the United Nations Environment Programme will be contacted to help carry out this project.

Meeting reviews committee's work at camp

SALT (Petra) — A meeting was held here Tuesday under the chairmanship of Governor Mijhem Khreisha to review the work of a committee entrusted with carrying out public services projects at Baqaa Palestinian refugee camp. The committee decided to set up sanitary facilities and improve telephone services for the camp. Other decisions taken at the meeting pertain to improving the sheep market in the camp.

Electricity supplied to Al Mahmudieh

KARAK (Petra) — Electric power was supplied Tuesday to Al Mahmudieh village, one of 12 villages in the Karak Governorate included in the electrification programme being carried out by the Jordan Electricity Authority (JEA). JEA sources said that JD 23,000 was spent on setting up a transformer station of 100 kilovolt ampere and laying power lines along 1.5 kilometres for the Mahmudieh project. Two more villages in the Karak Governorate will be supplied with electricity in August and the remaining villages by the end of the year.

Second stage begins on Amman-Dead Sea Highway

AMMAN (J.T.) — A groundbreaking ceremony marking the construction of the second stage of the Amman-Naur-Dead Sea Highway was celebrated Tuesday in Marj Al-Hamam-Naur Junction.

The 41-kilometre highway linking Amman, Naur and the Dead Sea is partly financed by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) with a grant of \$25 million. The project executed by Jordanian engineering and contracting firms, will cost an estimated 46 million U.S. dollars.

"There is an urgent need for a safer road in view of the increasing heavy traffic to and from the Jordan Valley," Mr. Lewis Reade, the USAID director in Jordan said.

The planned motorway will upgrade the original Amman-Dead Sea road to a four-lane highway and avoid areas of recurrent landslides on the existing road, particularly near the village of Adasieh.

The motorway will also eliminate dangerous curves along the 1,400-metre drop from the highlands as well as ease the heavy traffic, especially in the winter season.

The highway will also shorten travel time and provide a safer route for the heavy truck traffic bringing in agricultural produce to market from the Jordan Valley.

The groundbreaking ceremony was attended by Under Secretary of the Ministry of Public Works Mr. Khalaf Hawwari, Mr. Reade, the president of the Jordanian Engineers Association, the president of the Jordanian Contractors Association, and senior officials from the Ministry of Public Works and the USAID Mission in Jordan.

According to Mr. Hawwari, the third and fourth phases of the project will be announced before the end of the year, once designs and documents have been prepared.

The construction of the high-



Workers and officials view groundbreaking ceremony of the second stage of the Amman-Dead Sea Highway (Petra photo)

way's first phase began June 20 and is being completed by Al Jafar Contracting Company and the General Contracting Company. The phase should be completed by December 1988, and will consist of a six kilometre four-lane highway stretching from Marj Al Haman junction to the Dar Al Dawa area, according to the ministry.

Last month, the ministry signed an agreement with an American engineering firm, Parsons Brinckerhoff International of New York, and the Jordanian engineering firm Jouzy and Partners to supervise the work on the highway.

Mr. Hawwari said the new highway will help transport agricultural products from the Jordan Valley and the West Bank to Amman and speed up economic and social development along areas of the highway.

Abu Nuseir Housing Estate units sold

AMMAN (J.T.) — All 3,650 housing units in the Abu Nuseir Housing Estate have been sold to the private and public sectors. Additional applications submitted to the Housing Corporation for units will be diverted to other housing estates in the country, according to Housing Corporation Director Shafiq Zawaideh.

Mr. Zawaideh said the corporation has built units in Yajouz, Marka, and Sahab near Amman, and Mafrq, Ajloun, Jerash to the north, and Ma'an and Tafleh in the south of the country.

The Abu Nuseir Housing

Estate has been turned over to the Greater Amman Municipality zone, Mr. Zawaideh noted, so that it can benefit from the capital's services. The Housing Corporation, nevertheless, will carry out maintenance of the units free of charge for a year.

Most of the beneficiaries who owned units in Abu Nuseir estate are low-income families who will be paying for their homes in monthly instalments over 30 years.

Beneficiaries of the Abu Nuseir Housing Estate were exempted from making a down payment on their units. The govern-

ment is also allowing them to pay for these units over 30 years, instead of 25, at an interest of 5.5 per cent.

The units at Abu Nuseir were built on only half of the land allotted for the original project, which was carried out by French and Chinese contracting firms.

According to Mr. Zawaideh, the other half of the land will be put up for sale to the public.

The housing estate has been provided with basic services and the Housing Corporation has ensured public transport facilities for the estate, lying some 10 kilometres northwest of Amman.

Mu'ta announces enrollment

AMMAN (J.T.) — Mu'ta University near Karak in southern Jordan announced it will admit 700 students into its military and civilian wings for the 1987-88 academic year.

Mr. Qafan Momani, director of admission and registration, was quoted by the Arabic daily newspaper Sawt Al Shaab as saying that 300 male and female students will be accepted in the civilian wing and 400 to the military wing.

Heat wave to bake Jordan until end of the week

AMMAN (J.T.) — The present heat wave affecting Jordan and other parts of the Eastern Mediterranean will continue until at least the end of this week, according to Dr. Ali Abanda, director general of the Meteorological Department.

He said that the formation of a weather depression over the northern parts of the Arabian Peninsula is responsible for the heat wave which began July 21. The depression caused an inflow of hot wind from the heart of the peninsula towards the north, affecting Iran, Turkey, Greece, Syria and Jordan, Dr. Abanda said.

The heat wave, the most severe in Jordan in 10 years, caused a considerable rise in temperature which peaked at 37 degrees Celsius in Amman Monday. Amman and other hilly regions of the Kingdom received maximum highs of 35-37 degrees Celsius over the past week, but low-lying regions like the Jordan Valley have experienced higher temperatures, Dr. Abanda said.

Jordan had its highest temperatures in July 1978 when a temperature of 42.2 degrees Celsius was recorded, he said.

Agency gets JD 400,000 to produce and export eggs

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Economic Security Committee has decided to grant a subsidy of JD 400,000 to the Jordan Society for the Production and Marketing of Eggs (JSPME) to help it produce and export eggs.

JSPME Director Suleiman Irteimeh voiced the society's appreciation of the government's decision which he said should enhance the work of the local farmers.

Mr. Irteimeh said the JSPME will hold a general assembly meeting August 10 to discuss a programme for organising the production of table eggs and setting up a centre for grading eggs produced by the society's farms.

Earlier this year, Mr. Irteimeh urged the government to further subsidise the society's exports in order to strike a balance between the supply and demand of eggs in the Kingdom.

Speaking in an interview with the Jordan Times, Mr. Irteimeh said the society was seeking a subsidy on egg exports of up to 30 per cent of the price of eggs so the local produce can outbid international prices.

Last month, Mr. Irteimeh went to Baghdad where he signed contracts for the sale of \$4 million worth of eggs to Iraq. Jordan has a total of 150 poultry farms, together producing some 550 million eggs annually, of which 400 million can be consumed in Jordan and the rest marketed abroad.

Iraq last year bought 47 million eggs and the JSPME hopes to sell 60 million table eggs in the Iraqi market during 1987.

Last year, poultry farmers sustained a JD 1.6 million loss due to huge surpluses of table eggs.

House okays budget supplement

(Continued from page 1)

In a statement he read to the House, Dr. Nawayseh said that the real deficit in the 1986 budget, including loans the government obtained outside the original budget, reached JD 312 million despite a saving of JD 95 million in the oil bill (due to the decline in prices) which he said was at the time "denied by the government."

Dr. Nawayseh said that the issuance of supplementary budgets, practised by successive governments, was "a violation of the simplest constitutional regulations. They represent another case in the steady habit of breaking the House's decision against such supplements. This also means the legislative branch is forced to give up its right of custody over public funds..."

The Karak deputy said that "insisting on saturating the country" was unacceptable "especially if we knew that the total public foreign debt has reached \$5.3 billion, a per capita debt of \$1,768."

Dr. Nawayseh said the House had been in session during most of 1986 during which it could have discussed the extra spending planned by the government.

In conclusion, he criticised the government's spending policy and urged other deputies to return the law to the government without approval.

Deputy Laith Shbeilat, who had prepared a speech to read to the House on the budget supplement's subject, altered his speech following the prime minister's statement and pledge not to issue budget supplements without House approval.

In his amended speech, Mr. Shbeilat praised Mr. Rifai's position on future public spending which he said "deserved admiration. It proved that good men are those who do not insist on carrying on with mistakes."

Mr. Shbeilat said the Constitution allowed such supplements in times where urgent spending was needed in emergencies such as earthquakes and other disasters and not in the cases used by the government. He described the prime minister's proposal for a joint decision by the government and Parliament on the issue as "a great example of cooperation."

18 killed in Colombo riots

(Continued from page 1)

solution and will fight for a permanent one."

India, the main broker of the pact, has not spelled out how it can make it stick if the Tigers refuse to cooperate.

However, Mr. Gandhi said in New Delhi on Tuesday that India would send observers to help monitor the accord and indicated that a peace-keeping force could be deployed. He gave not details of such a force.

Preparations for a visit to Colombo by Mr. Gandhi on Wednesday to sign an agreement guaran-

teeing the pact went ahead despite the riots and the mood of uncertainty in the Sri Lankan capital.

In a scene highlighting the ambivalent mood, soldiers, sailors and brass bands rehearsed a ceremonial welcome for Mr. Gandhi on a sea-front promenade while smoke from burning buildings and vehicles billowed on the skyline.

"As of now he's coming," a Sri Lankan official told Reuters as the riots died down. "I don't know what will happen later," he added.

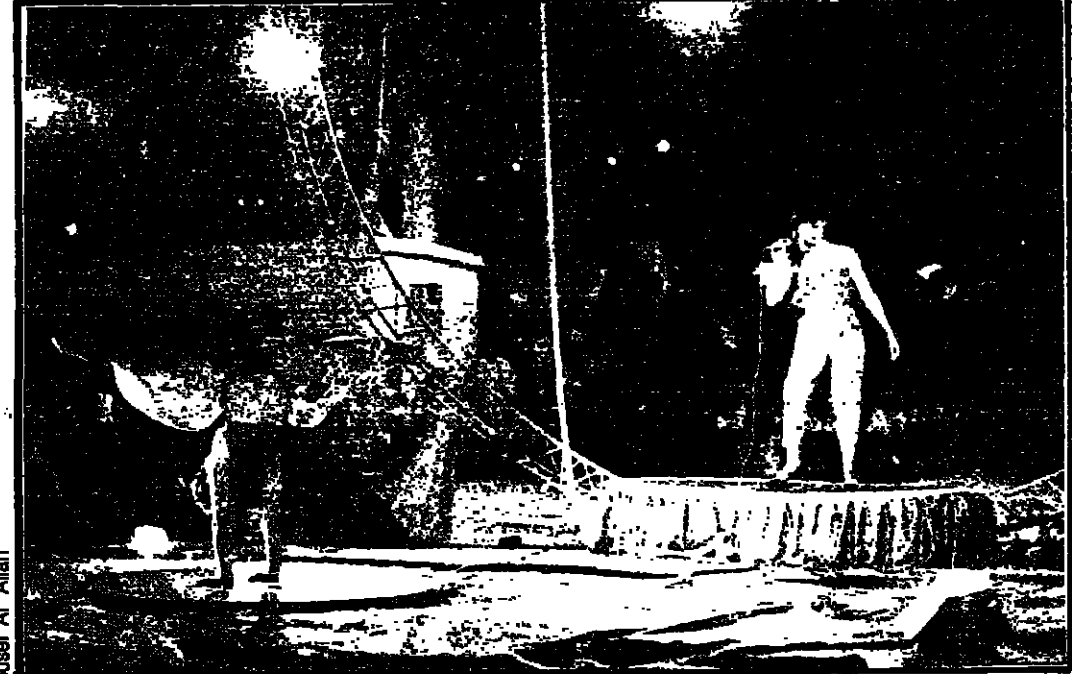
Deputy Abdullah Akailah echoed the same concerns and backed Dr. Nawayseh's proposal for further studies on the project. Mr. Shbeilat also agreed that the project required postponement for more studies to determine the responsibilities and authorities to be entrusted with the institute.

The House also approved the establishment of a higher council for science and technology and a draft law controlling universities in the Kingdom. Two laws for the Audit Bureau and insurance companies were also approved after slight amendments by the Senate.

Performances continue to delight Jerash audiences



Now into its third week, the 1987 Jerash Festival continues to offer spectators enjoyable entertainment. Starting clockwise from top right: members of the Le Grand Celeste group from France excite the Forum audience; bottom right, the Moscow State Ballet Theatre performs majestically at the South Theatre; below left, the Tunisian group of the International Youth Musical Performance presents traditional songs and dances at the Artemis Steps.



Photos by Youssef Al 'Alian

IJLTC to study possible vehicle purchases

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Iraq-Jordan Land Transport Company (IJLTC) is examining the prospect of purchasing spare parts for its fleet of lorries and other vehicles from the Arab Federation of Engineering Industries which has its plants in Tunis.

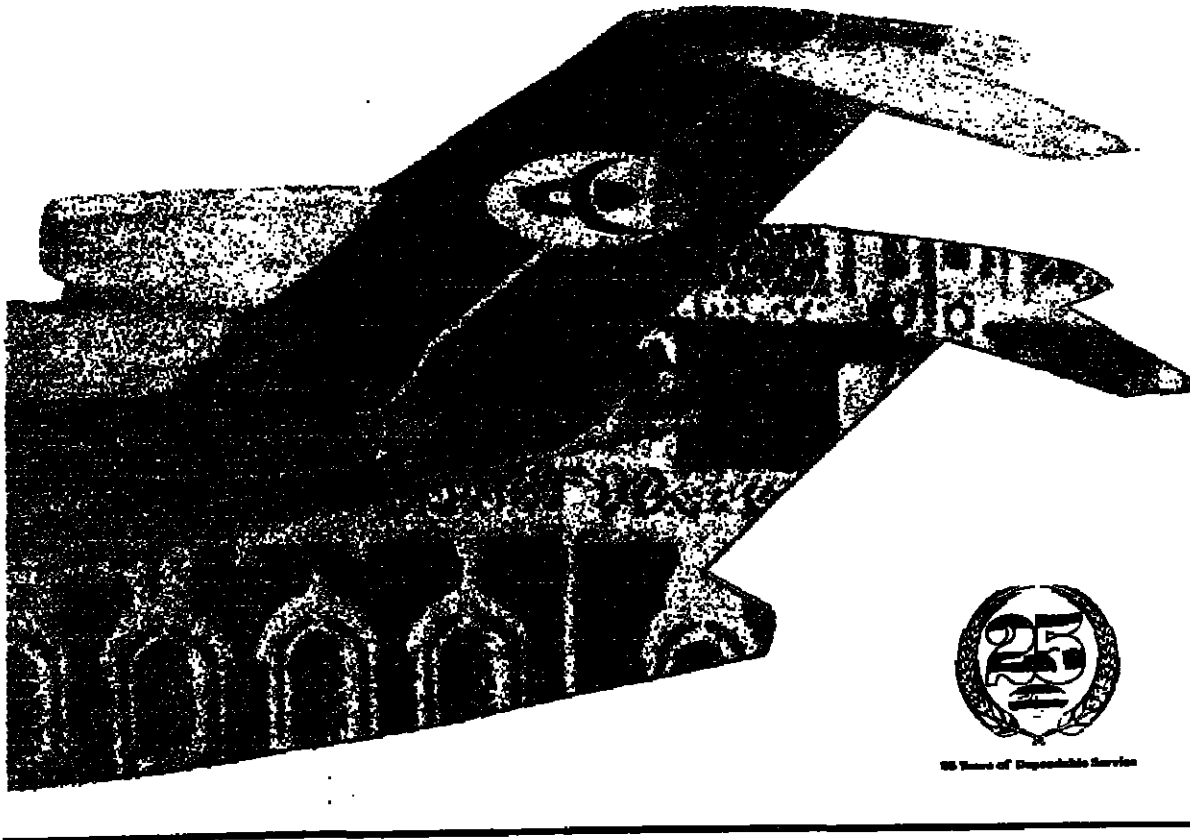
IJLTC Director General Jamil Ibrahim left for Tunis Tuesday to study a possible agreement. In an interview with the Arabic daily Al Ra'i, published Tuesday, Mr. Ibrahim said the company made more than JD 1 million in profits in the first half of 1987, despite the current economic recession in the Arab World.

Mr. Ibrahim also said the company's volume of transported goods via IJLTC vehicles increased by 24 per cent over the volume of the same period last year. The increased volume of operations brought in a 27 per cent rise in revenues in 1986 and there was also a 1.1 per cent drop in expenditures over the same period.

Nearly 96 per cent of employees and workers at IJLTC are Jordanians, he said, adding that the company is run by a board of directors formed by Iraqi and Jordanian representatives.

The company has been carrying out job training programmes and offering incentives for workers in an effort to increase general output, Mr. Ibrahim noted.

Mr. Ibrahim also said the company now owns a fleet of 400 lorries in addition to workshops, garages and other installations in Jordan and Iraq.



Yemenia to Sana'a

A modern welcome to the ancient world

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Our role in UNCTAD VII

IN HIS ADDRESS to the Seventh Session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) in Geneva on Monday, His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan made two new important proposals aimed at improving the performance of the international economic system.

The first proposal called for the establishment of an independent and impartial group of men, close to decision makers in their respective countries, to reassess the world economic situation and recommend solutions to make it healthier and fairer to all.

The second urged the creation of an International Technology Transfer Facility (ITTF) through which development in Third World countries could be helped and supported by technology-rich and wealthy countries.

The Crown Prince also called for reviving a proposal he made back in 1977 to set up an International Labour Compensatory Facility (ILCF) which could support efforts by labour- and expertise-exporting states to enhance their own labour-absorbing capacities and keep human resources at home.

All these proposals are not only worthy of study by the world community; they should be acted on and pushed to the forefront of international debates that seek practical solutions to world economic problems.

We do not want to sound over-optimistic. But we are told that there are already some positive signs in support of the Crown Prince's proposals among UNCTAD's delegates and secretariat in Geneva. Other countries, which had been sounded on the proposals before they were made, have also expressed backing and pledged efforts in favour of the ideas contained in Crown Prince Hassan's address on Monday. This is hardly surprising, given His Royal Highness's standing as an international economic figure and Jordan's excellent reputation as a force of moderation and achievement in world affairs.

What is needed now is for the Kingdom, along with our partners and friends throughout the world, to make concerted efforts towards bringing the Crown Prince's proposals into focus and to step up those efforts to translate the ideas into realistic and practical recommendations to be acted on by the international community.

This can and should be done by bilateral contacts and strengthening regional and inter-regional cooperation and coordination, and by greater involvement in international issues and the work of world institutions. Jordan, for instance, shares many problems and thoughts with so many other countries which are attending UNCTAD VII; but its role came to the forefront in the conference only after the Crown Prince himself decided to go to Geneva and address the session and make his proposals. If he had not, the competent ministry might have decided that it was of no concern to us that the Soviet Union had finally signed the Common Fund for Commodities or that Japan had decided to recycle \$30 billion into the international economic system on the eve of UNCTAD VII.

By all accounts, the Crown Prince's address to UNCTAD has given momentum to Jordan's efforts towards translating its moral assets into tangible ones. It is now up to us and to those countries who share our outlook and aspirations for a better world and more equitable distribution of wealth, to support his proposals and to work towards achieving the aims behind them.

ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i: The strong vs. the weak

ISRAEL'S Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir Monday reiterated his government's intransigent policies with regard to the Middle East issue. He said that Israel rejects the idea of an international conference, does not want the Soviet Union to be included in the peace process and can never negotiate with the Palestine Liberation Organisation. This means that Israel's negative attitude towards the peace process is aimed to exclude the Palestinians from the peace negotiations, continue to swallow up Arab land and impose capitulation on the Arabs. Shamir's statement means that Israel's expansionist and terrorist policies and aggression will continue regardless of who is at the helm of government in the Jewish state. The Arabs should realise that regaining their usurped rights and lands and reviving the peace process in their region require from them to undermine Israel's strategy through an intrinsic Arab force, capable of convincing the Israelis that further delay in the peace process entails serious consequences for the Jewish state itself. The Arabs' current drive to convene an international conference should by no means distract them from the task of building their own power for a long struggle against the Israeli aggressors. If they fail to do that Israel will continue to say no to any peace bids and constructive initiatives, and the Arabs will then continue to run behind a mirage.

Sawt Al Shaab: Who blundered?

WE believe that foreign intervention in the Gulf area will take on a new dimension because the United States is insisting on acquiring further facilities to help provide protection for international shipping. The United States is now seeking land bases for its troops and war planes under the pretext of giving safety to Kuwaiti tankers and international navigation at large. The Americans have already amassed their fleets, aircraft carriers and war planes and helicopters in the Gulf, but still they claim that this is not enough to enable their forces to provide the required protection. We believe that if denied the land bases, the Americans will announce that they are in the process of revising their earlier decision to provide protection to the Kuwaiti tankers, simply because they are not concerned with finding a solution for the Gulf conflict. The Americans are only concerned with handling the effects of Iranian threat to international shipping and preserving their own interests. Further more it seems that the United States and other world major powers are trying to exploit the United Nations Security Council Resolution 598 in a manner that would serve their own interests and not those of the Gulf area.

Al Dustour: Iran's empty threats

ARAB Gulf states most probably realise that Iran is in no position now to carry out its threats of attacking oil installations on their territory in revenge for their support for Iraq. But it is useful for the leaders of the Gulf Cooperation Council to meet and to seriously consider a joint policy with which to deal with such threats and Iranian blackmail attempts. Iran has been issuing statements containing threats to the Arab states in a bid to force them to stop supporting Iraq. The rulers in Tehran have been bent on exercising such blackmail against the leaders of the Gulf states over the past seven years to no avail. Arab leaders realise this fact, but they ought to find means for aborting all Iranian manoeuvres designed to bring pressure to bear on one or more of these Gulf countries. Without a pan-Arab strategy and joint force Iran will not be deterred from continuing its threats. We hope that the Iranian threats, voiced by the speaker of the Iranian parliament, would now help bring all Arab leaders together at a summit meeting.



Shot cartoonist's sharp weapon in a war of worlds

By David Pallister

NAJIB AL'ALI, the Palestinian critically wounded by gunmen in London last Tuesday, is the most famous, most feared and highest paid cartoonist in the Arab World.

Few regimes or political groups in the Middle East have escaped his satirical pen which, in his own words, he put to the service of "the simple Arabs all over the region who have few outlets to express their point of view."

Suggestions that his attackers were pro-Iranian were discounted by his friends in London and Kuwait. Although he has for the past two years worked on the London-based Kuwaiti newspaper, Al Qabas, which supports Iran in the Gulf war, his more frequent targets, were the leadership of the Palestinian Liberation Organisation and the more

repressive Arab regimes, including at times Iraq.

The PLO in Tunis July 24 accused an unnamed Arab intelligence service of the shooting and the Iranian Embassy in London denied involvement.

Mr. Al Ali knew he was a target ever since he was forced to leave Kuwait in 1985, reportedly at the insistence of the PLO chairman Yasser Arafat. "If I am the first to go," he told an Iraqi poet who was thrown out at the same time, "you will be the next."

Arafat was infuriated at Mr. Al Ali's characterisation of the PLO leaders as rich men enjoying their fast cars and jet-set travel in the West. He used to call Arafat "Abu Shafaya" or Father of the Lips after the chairman's propensity for kissing children in the TV spotlight.

In an interview with Index on Censorship in 1984, he said: "I

also draw rich Palestinians who scream all day about the land and about sacrifices when in fact they are more interested in their financial deals and private gains." As the Gulf Palestinians are a valuable source of funds for the PLO it is thought that Arafat had even stronger reasons than vanity for his enmity towards Al Ali.

In Britain, Al Qabas installed a security system because of death threats against Al Ali. The editor, Mr. Rafic Khoriti, said on July 24: "We know he was warned so many times last month. Threats were made direct to himself."

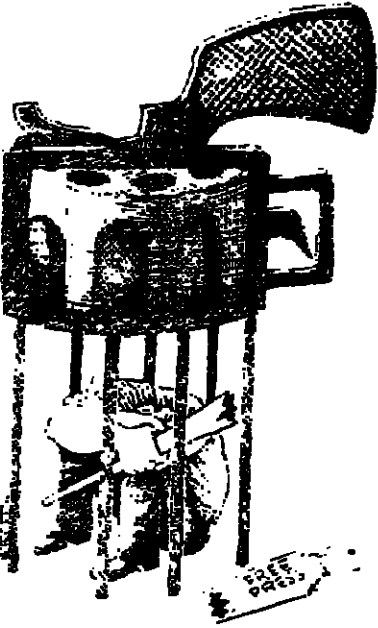
As a secular humanist, Al Ali treated the Gulf war as a cruelty inflicted on the people of both sides. He drew cartoons about torture and Iraq's use of chemical weapons.

After the seemingly accidental Iraqi missile attack on the U.S. Frigate Stark in May he hinted

that Iraq had deliberately acted as an American agent in the region, drawing the U.S. closer into the conflict. "He deserved to be hanged," his caption went about the execution of the Iraqi pilot. "He only shot one missile."

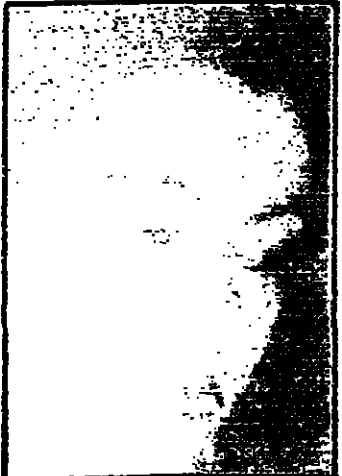
Mr. Al Ali grew up in the Ein Al Helwa refugee camp in south Lebanon in the 50s and 60s. Stirred by the revolution in Egypt and the Algerian war, he drew on the camp walls and then on the walls of Lebanese jails after his arrest for political activities by the Deuxieme Bureau, the Lebanese intelligence service.

Surrounded by armies, he said later, "I never felt fear, failure or despair, and I didn't surrender. I faced armies with cartoons, with drawings of flowers, hope and bullets. My work in Beirut made me once again closer to the refugees in the camps, the poor and the harassed." Despite his many enemies, Mr. Al Ali's cartoons



Najib Al Ali

are still widely published in the Middle East. Except in Egypt, the art is something of an innovation the region where the censors have troubled themselves more with words and poetry — The Guardian.



Dhabia Khamiss — imprisoned but no charges

Columnist silenced

By Victoria Britain

DHABIA KHAMISS, one of the Gulf's best known women writers and journalists has become the first known female political prisoner in the United Arab Emirates. Detained seven weeks ago, she has not been charged, and her mother has not been allowed to visit her.

Last year in London Dhabia Khamiss told the magazine Index on Censorship that freedom of expression in the United Arab Emirates was "deteriorating rapidly." She is a poet, writer of short stories, TV producer and columnist, but has been regularly prevented from publishing in the UAE.

This year she has been writing a column for the conservative Saudi Arabian Al Majallah which focused mainly on issues relating to women and culture. The column is believed to have led to her arrest — The Guardian.

Rebel quarrels reveal split over Afghan king

By Oliver Wates

Reuter

ISLAMABAD — A bout of public squabbling has underlined bitter divisions among Afghan rebel leaders on whether exiled King Zahir Shah can help end the devastating guerrilla war in their country.

Last weekend one leader, Sibghatullah Mojaddidi, warned that the issue could cause a split among the seven party chiefs in Western-backed rebel alliance based in Pakistan.

Another, Islamic radical Gulbuddin Hekmatyar, said he would fight on against any coalition government headed by the king if it was sponsored by Moscow.

The dispute resurfaced after the rebels rejected out of hand the latest compromise proposal from the Soviet-backed Kabul government.

Ruling Communist leader Najib offered last month to give 13

ministries and the post of vice-president to his opponents, while retaining the presidency and security-related posts.

The proposal was aimed largely at the three parties on the "nationalist" wing of the alliance, headed by Mojaddidi, Syed Ahmad Gailani and Mohammad Nabi Mohammadi.

All three dismissed the offer as a propaganda ploy and reiterated their unrelenting demand for the withdrawal of Soviet troops, estimated by the West to number 115,000, as the only way to end the conflict.

Since the beginning of the year, Kabul has issued a steady stream of proposals for peace talks, a ceasefire and a coalition government. The rebels have unanimously dismissed every one as divisive propaganda not to be trusted.

Even a suggestion by Najib, in answer to a question at a Moscow news conference, that he would step down himself if it would help

a peace settlement, failed to impress the rebels.

"It means the Russians have maybe got fed up with him, they want to get rid of him," Mojaddidi, head of the Jabha-I-Nijat-I-Milli Party, told Reuters.

The only issue where any common ground is visible seems to be Zahir Shah, the 73-year-old king, ousted in 1973 after 40 years as ruler of Afghanistan.

Two weeks ago a senior member of Najib's party, Sulaiman Laeq, said his government was ready to accept the return of the king if it would help peace. But it had had no direct contact with him.

The rebels are divided. The "nationalist" wing favours the idea, the four-party "fundamentalist" wing is by and large against it.

For the pro-king parties, Zahir Shah represents the only realistic chance for a settlement, given that the Soviet forces cannot realistically be driven out while

Moscow's commitment to its allies in Kabul lasts.

To the anti-king group, his return would mean going back to a system which allowed the Kremlin to infiltrate Afghanistan in the first place and imply an unacceptable degree of Soviet influence.

Each side says it is backed by the overwhelming bulk of the Mujahideen guerrilla fighters and the estimated five million Afghan refugees.

"Ninety to 95 per cent of the people agree on a government of the king. They want to get rid of the Russians any way (possible)," Mojaddidi said.

The Russians are not ready to withdraw from Afghanistan and leave behind a government from the Mujahideen side. When they make a withdrawal it must be with respect and honour.

"We don't agree to a government of a Communist regime. There must be a third solution. That solution is a neutral man

who has no enmity with the Russians."

Mojaddidi's proposal, aired also at a news conference with Mohammad last week, is for Zahir Shah to take over as head of an interim government for six months to a year, while peace is restored. Elections would then be held for a new government.

Yunus Khalis, head of Hezb-I-Islami (Khalis), immediately denounced the proposal in a newspaper interview as a Soviet conspiracy to install a "Trojan horse" in Afghanistan.

Hekmatyar was equally forthright. "When Zahir Shah was overthrown not a single man fired in his favour, either in the army or among civilians. Rather the tanks were garlanded by the people," he said at a news conference in Peshawar.

"Zahir Shah can come neither through Pakistan nor through Iran. If he comes at all he will be coming through Moscow — if he comes, we will continue to fight."

French politicians keeping mum about presidential poll

By Simon Haydon

Reuter

PARIS — French President Francois Mitterrand says he won't, but he probably will, Prime Minister Jacques Chirac and former Prime Minister Raymond Barre refuse to say if they will or won't — but it seems certain they will.

In fact only a Communist, a Trotskyist and an extreme rightist have announced they are in the running to become president of France in elections scheduled for May 1988.

France's leading politicians are battling to avoid being forced to be the first to say they will run in a poll that will be the first major test of the country's bizarre mix of a Socialist president and a conservative government.

"Most of them feel that the first to announce he is a candidate is almost certain to flop," said one Socialist parliamentarian. In the meantime, the centre-right government of Chirac, elected in March 1986, is weighed down by electoral calculations and showing increasing confusion over its legislative plans.

One of Chirac's most controversial bills, to reform France's nationality laws to crack down on immigration, has been nudged aside to be studied by a parliamentary commission, and is unlikely to be voted before the presidential polls.

But political analysts say growing support for the far-right National Front's anti-immigration policies might prompt the 54-year-old Chirac to reactivate the bill.

Mitterrand appears to be holding all the cards at the moment, with his relative powerlessness over day-to-day affairs at home making him largely immune from criticism.

Rivals of the 70-year-old president on both right and left are finding it increasingly difficult to stand by while opinion polls show his popularity growing with each opinion poll.

"Frankly, all Mitterrand needs to do at the moment is to keep quiet, and present himself six weeks before the election," the parliamentarian, who declined to be named, added.

It is not yet known if Mitterrand will stand for another seven-year term of office, but the chances of another Socialist candidate winning are slim, according to the polls.

On the political right, Chirac appears virtually certain to stand, as does Barre.

These two political heavyweights — Barre is a former prime minister — look set to slug it out in the first round of voting during the two-stage election. All but the two most popular candidates drop out after the first round.

Opinion polls have usually shown Chirac trailing slightly behind Barre, who, like Mitterrand, has the advantage of being able to stand alone day-to-day political battles.

Chirac, on the other hand, appears in the worst position. Since March 1986, when the Socialist government was ousted, he and Mitterrand have worked together in a stormy marriage of convenience, dubbed "cohabitation" in France.

Mitterrand has used all the political cunning of 40 years experience — he is known in France as "the Sphinx" — to present himself as a people's president.

Political analysts now discuss what they call the second stage of cohabitation, when the gloves are off and Chirac, Barre and Mitterrand have announced their candidacies.

Sources in the Socialist Party say the present government would almost certainly be dissolved if the left won May's elections, and new parliamentary elections would be called later in 1988.

Government spokesman Denis Baudouin told a regular news briefing Chirac hoped the campaign would be as short as possi-

ble as it was bound to disrupt government business.

"The prime minister would prefer this period to be as short as possible... He has a lot of work to do before the end of this year," Baudouin added.

As well as pushing through economic and social reforms that have done little to improve his popularity, Chirac faces a dilemma over how to cope with growing support for the National Front.

The National Front has already announced party leader Jean Marie Le Pen will run for president.

Polls show that National Front winning up to 20 per cent support in the first round of the presidential election.

Chirac has been troubled by trying to recapture some of the far-right's support by advocating a tougher line on immigration, which has in turn brought angry protests from the centrist section

of his centre-right coalition.

But if Chirac has failed to use cohabitation to gain popularity, most analysts agree the power-sharing experiment has worked surprisingly well.

Many predicted it would collapse within months, especially after Mitterrand announced days after he lost his parliamentary majority in 1986 that he would not stand by and allow Chirac to introduce anti-social measures.

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مكتبة الامم

British Telecom gets its lines crossed

A jewel in Margaret Thatcher's privatisation crown was British Telecom. However, things have not gone quite to plan. Terry Dodsworth examines mounting criticism of the telephone company.

LONDON — The timing must have been unintentional, but British Telecom's report and accounts for its last financial year could hardly have been published on a day when they were more likely to catch the eye.

The corporation has just suffered a bad time, hit by perhaps the worst spell of public criticism since the heady days of privatisation.

It has been lambasted on the one side by the office of Telecommunications, the industry's regulatory watchdog, and on the other by the National Consumer Council. It has been taken to task for its record in repairing faults, and attacked for its prices and delays in installing business lines. Recently, its main union joined in the fray, declaring that customers were right to complain about prices and "continuing declining standards."

BT showed that it was willing to eat at least some humble pie in the face of this onslaught. At a Financial Times conference aimed specifically at the business market, Mr. Paul Reeve, BT's director of sales, said that the company was not satisfying its business customers. The company had particularly fallen behind in London, he said, sandwiched by a combination of bad weather, extraordinary high de-

mand and its engineers' strike.

But this note of contrition was not easy to find in the company's report. Indeed, the news release accompanying the accounts was headed unapologetically "A year of notable successes," while Sir George Jefferson, BT's chairman, said that although the company knew it had some problems, "these should not be allowed to hide the very real achievements of 1986-87." He went on to list a number of developments: 2.5 million more lines in service since privatisation, a 50 per cent increase in City demand for private circuits, £6 million (\$9.6 million) spent on modernising and expanding the network, more than half the £160 million payphone modernisation programme completed, and so on.

These figures are all clearly statements of objective facts about the group's performance. But the NCC survey, conducted by the MORI polling group among 1,884 adults in early March, shows a very different perception of the company among the public at large. More than 50 per cent of consumers it says, now believe that BT prices are unreasonable, against 23 per cent for gas, and 35 per cent for electricity.

Far more people also believe they have grounds for complaint

against BT than against the gas, electricity or water utilities, and the group's record on failed or unsatisfactory calls is reckoned to have shown no improvement since 1984.

So what is going on? Is BT in danger of replacing British Rail as everyone's Aunt Sally?

Why is there this large, and seemingly growing, discrepancy between the company's claims about its performance and the public perception of the quality of its services?

Professor Bryan Carsberg, director general of OfTel, has made it clear in some of his recent comments that he believes that a strong element of the problem lies in the question of perceptions. He has had to steer a cautious course, since he is under attack himself from the NCC, because of his dual role in regulating the industry and dealing with complaints on a report like NCC's which deals, he says, with people's views about the situation rather than the objective facts.

Nevertheless, these attitudes are real enough for the people who hold them, and they seemed to have been hardened up by several events in recent months. Among these are:

— The explosion of demand in the City, which, according to Mr. Reeve, ran out of control after Christmas. Although BT claims to have planned meticulously for the Big Bang, its forecasts came nowhere near the outcome, leaving many dissatisfied customers in

a sector of the community which is not slow to complain.

— Teething problems and a hiccup in the installations of its new digital System X exchanges, which has left the company dangerously short of capacity in some areas. Here again, the company has shot itself in the foot by allowing these difficulties to emerge in residential areas around the city of London populated by articulate and sometimes influential critics.

— The engineer's strike in February also set the company back on its new installation programme.

— Since privatisation, the company has also considerably raised its profile and the expectations of the public in what it will deliver. Indeed, it is these increased expectations which may have become the biggest problem for the group as it struggles to balance its radical modernisation programme against the City's demands for an improved profits performance and the humble customer's for a telephone which works.

The public has been taught by BT's publicity and the hype about privatisation to demand more than BT can, for the moment, apparently, easily deliver. It is now up to the corporation to live up to its claims, and a government which is as committed as the present one to the cause of privatisation must be anxious to see that it does — Financial Times feature.

Computer centre stores the Holy Koran

By Jeffrey Bartholet
Reuters

CAIRO — The words of Allah, originally jotted down on camel bones, leather and stone, are now packed into a one-megabyte computer programme designed to revolutionise Islamic learning.

The innovation is the first major change in the Middle Eastern production of the Koran, holy book to the World's one billion Muslims, since the printing press replaced Arab calligraphers nearly two centuries ago.

Marketers of the Arabic-language programme say it will spur Koranic study by allowing researchers to probe the voluminous work at push-button speed.

For Islamic educators, a quiz game is included in the programme to help students memorise any of 6,616 verses.

Often stored in velvet-lined boxes, the Koran is the most sacred work of Islamic theology, as well as the Arab World's most distinguished piece of literature.

Muslims believe the Koran is God's word as delivered to the Prophet Mohammad by the Archangel Gabriel over a 23-year

period during the 7th century A.D.

About 30 researchers in Kuwait have reviewed each character in the programme to ensure that no error was made in transcribing Allah's verses from paper to computer chip.

"They checked word by word, letter by letter, and then letter by letter backwards," said Sherif Al Ezzawi, the representative in Egypt of Kuwait's Al Alamiya Company, which designed the programme and also markets electronic games.

Ezzawi said there was no question of tampering with the text, adding "there's all kinds of technology to make sure you can't interfere."

The fill-in-the-blank quiz, for example, does not allow an incorrect answer to appear on the monitor.

The type of Arabic script in the programme is the same as that used since the Caliph Othman had the words committed to paper about 1,300 years ago.

To be accepted, the computerised Koran still must win approval from religious authorities in Saudi Arabia and Egypt. Early

response has been positive, according to the project's backers, who hope to market their product from September.

The programme has been shown in Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Iraq, Oman, Jordan, Morocco, Tunisia, Algeria and North Yemen.

"The results have been positive beyond belief because of the precision of the programme and its usefulness to the Koran researcher," Riyadh Al Sharikh, publications director of Al Alamiya, told Reuters in Kuwait.

The Koranic programme will be subject to the same Islamic injunctions as apply to the book, Ezzawi said.

A Muslim woman in her menstrual cycle will be prohibited religiously from using the programme, and a man after making love will have to wash himself before touching the cartridge.

Sharikh said the programme would be marketed first in the Arab World then in other Islamic countries. Al Alamiya was already developing new versions of the programme, including one with voice capability, he said.

The biggest target area for the

\$80 package will be Cairo, "The city of a thousand minarets," where men regularly visit mosques and campus gardens to leaf through pages of "The Book," as the Koran is sometimes called.

The average per capita income in Egypt is about \$400 per year, but Ezzawi says there is an expanding market for home computers among the more affluent of the country's 50 million people.

Throughout the Middle East, the Koran is prominently displayed in people's homes, in car windows, and is often placed in shop windows to deter burglars.

The computer version will not fulfil the same timeless symbolic functions, but it will bring the ancient work up to date with modern technology.

To display the speed of the Koranic programme, Ezzawi asked the computer to search the text for a certain Arabic word. Within seconds, the programme produced a list of verses, including verse 33 of sura 55:

"If you have the power to penetrate the heavens and earth, then penetrate," said Allah. "But know that you will never be able to do so without my sanction."

'Big Bang' or 'Big Bounce'?

By Dr. Bernd Schull

AS far back as the 4th century A.D., Augustine, the ecclesiastical scholar, asked the question: "What did God do before he created the material world?" He jokingly supplied the answer himself: "He created hell for people who ask such questions." This, of course, deterred neither him nor scientists in modern times from examining the origin and development of the world more closely.

In this century, in particular, cosmology has in increasing measure left the field of theoretical speculation and entered a phase of experimental verification. One of the milestones in this development was Edwin Hubble's discovery in the 1920s that all galaxies flee from each other. Supported by Albert Einstein's general theory of relativity, the concept has subsequently been expounded that stars and galaxies, firmly attached to an expanding space like dots on an inflating balloon, are slowly but surely drifting apart.

Traced back into the past, this movement of cosmic masses, in turn, takes us back via increasingly shrinking universe having a growing density of matter, to the

logical starting point of this development, i.e., a dot-like singularity or an expanding and timeless nothing from which the whole world of space, time and matter originated in a gigantic "big flash." A further indication of this Big Bang may well have been provided by an astronomical discovery back in the 1960s, the "Three-Degree Background Radiation." This "cold" radiation of three degrees Kelvin, which affects the whole universe in like manner, can be best described as a sort of after-glow following the "Big Bang."

However, even today, the "Big Bang" theory is not entirely satisfactory for many cosmologists. In particular, the concept of a literally never-ending high density of matter, and the corresponding high temperature following the creation of the universe, has something unscientifically mysterious about it. Furthermore, researchers continue to be plagued by Augustine's question: "What was there previously?" Dr. Hans Joachim Blome, Institut für theoretische Physik (Institute of Theoretical Physics), Cologne University, and Professor Wolfgang Priester, Institut für Astrophysik und Extraterrestrische Forschung (Institute of

Astrophysics and Extraterrestrial Research), Bonn University, recently presented a new cosmology which dispenses with the point — like "Big Bang." There is no beginning of space or time in the Bonn model. Space, initially devoid of matter, has "always" been there. Conceived once more as an expandable balloon, the empty "space bubble" first shrank in the very distant past, but did not reach the point of disappearing in this model. Instead, it swung through a condition of smallest capacity and from there on it began to expand into eternity.

Thus, even in the new cosmological model, one point in time stands out among all others, i.e., the moment in which primeval space could no longer be further condensed, in the same way as a bouncing rubber ball corrects its deformation and bounces back. The Bonn cosmologists call this moment the Big Bounce, which replaces the theory of the Urknall, the "Big Bang." In this new starting point of creation a kind of transformation phase emerges, which is similar to the condensation of water drops from oversaturated steam. This new stage produces the original matter which, as the "Big Bang"

theory, forms the stars and galaxies as the development of the universe progresses.

On the basis of the equality of mass and energy formulated by Albert Einstein, however, the gigantic level of energy, which now fills our space in the form of visible and invisible cosmic masses, must have been there before the "Big Bounce." Accordingly, primeval space was not entirely "empty": It was filled with a substrate of matterless energy. "Big Bounce" cosmology identifies this "basic source of creation" as something that is known to physicists as quantum vacuum.

This mysterious-sounding term describes a sort of basic state of all fields of force. Its reality can even be experimentally demonstrated by something familiar to most of us: The electromagnetic field. This is the term used by physicists to describe the carrier and transmitter of forces created by electric currents and charges, or magnets. Whereas physics in the last century claimed that an electromagnetic field vanished if its sources were removed, either by switching off all current supplies or screening off charges and magnets, quantum physics in this century knows better — in accordance with reality.

— German Research Service, Bonn.

Carnage on motorways appals Germans

By Michael Stott
Reuters

BONN — Some West Germans are protesting at mounting carnage on the motorways, but few politicians dare challenge the sacred freedom to race unchecked on the Western world's only speed limit-free highways.

Newcomers to West Germany often flinch as their airport taxi roars up the two-lane motorway into town at speeds up to 180 kmh (110 mph), frequently just inches from the bumper of the car in front.

It may be legal, but the consequences are often grim.

A May holiday weekend disaster on the A9 in Bavaria had 171 cars, eight trucks and three buses slamming into each other. Two people were killed and 92 injured.

"Racetrack Germany — a nation drives amok," screamed a

recent front page of the weekly news magazine Der Spiegel.

So frequent is the motorway pile-up that it has earned itself a special name in German — *massenkarambolage*.

Sociologist Wolfgang Sachs blamed an innate German "lust for victory and fear of being insulted" for the wild motorway behaviour in a recent book entitled "The Love of The Car."

Last year 763 West Germans died on the country's motorways, 14 per cent more than in 1985, the transport ministry said. The number of injured leapt 20 per cent to 26,494.

Overall road deaths in West Germany stood at 8,942 last year, meaning that someone dies on West German roads every hour.

The country has a bad record compared with other major industrialised nations. Official figures showed 14.7 deaths per 100,000 inhabitants in 1986, com-

pared to 9.7 in Britain and 7.9 in Japan. France, however, had 19 deaths per 100,000 last year.

But proponents of a speed limit face an almost impossible task. Attempts over the last 20 years to curb motorway speeds have always failed.

The defence of "free speed for free citizens" is orchestrated here by the eight-million-strong ADAC automobile club.

"A speed limit wouldn't do any good, we're not going to bring one in," Chancellor Helmut Kohl was quoted as saying last month. It was a rare public comment on a subject most politicians avoid.

The new conservative-liberal government in Hessen state even removed some speed limits on particularly accident-prone sections of the motorways there, saying they were unnecessary and unjustified.

"For the (federal) government, the supposed right of the speed-

ing swine to free development of their craving for speed is more important than the lives of other drivers and passengers," Greens party deputy Michael Weiss said in a parliamentary debate last week.

"Speed in itself is not the issue. What matters is whether the speed is suitable for the traffic," retorted Dionys Jobst, a deputy in the governing coalition.

Traffic experts say that drivers, after a brief spell of responsible behaviour during the energy and environmental crises of the 1970s and early 1980s, are now returning to their old habits.

The rise in motorway deaths last year came in spite of new technology such as safer braking systems and better lighting. Munich firm Koenig Specials recently announced what they say is "the world's fastest road-going car."

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CHEESE FROM THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY

MADE IN GERMANY

Libya, citing 'technical problems', pulls out of All Africa Games

Niger, Liberia may follow suit due to dire financial straits

NAIROBI (R) — Libya has pulled out of next week's All Africa Games in Kenya for unexplained technical reasons, Isaac Lugonzo, according to chairman of the games organising committee.

"Libya teleaxed us saying that they were unable to participate due to technical problems," he said Monday.

Asked whether Libya had explained the nature of these problems, he replied "they did not and we did not bother to try and find out because once people say it is due to technical problems or circumstances beyond their control, there is nothing you can do."

"We feel sorry that they are not participating, but there it is," he added.

Libya's withdrawal from the August 1-12 games follows a sharp deterioration in the country's relations with Kenya earlier this year.

The Kenyan government expelled five Libyan diplomats in May after accusing them of trying to recruit as spies several students

who had been expelled from local universities.

Lugonzo said that although he had seen press reports indicating that Niger and Liberia were also withdrawing from the games for financial reasons, he had not been formally notified of such a decision.

He also stressed that Sierra Leone was free to attend the games, whether or not it was in arrears to the Supreme Council for Sport in Africa (SCSA).

"I was to repeat that any country which has not paid its membership fees to the council is free to come and participate... there is no rule that they would be barred," he said.

"We as the organising committee have been asked to receive anybody who has filled in forms to participate in the games," he

added.

A senior Sierra Leonean sports official flew to Yaounde on Monday for talks with the SCSA secretariat after being notified by the council that Sierra Leone would be barred from the All Africa Games unless it cleared a \$73,000 debt to the continental sports body.

Libya's withdrawal leaves 44 countries officially left in the games, which will be formally inaugurated by Kenyan President Daniel Arap Moi on Saturday.

Several teams have already arrived in Nairobi, but most are expected towards the end of this week.

'African Emirate' declines to send team

Oil-rich Gabon will not take part in the All Africa Games after the government turned down a request from Sports Minister Victor Afene for additional funds, a sports ministry source said on Monday.

The decision to cancel Gabon's participation was taken by Afene, who asked two months ago that a special grant to be earmarked in the state budget to meet the cost of sending a four-athlete team to Nairobi.

The government said it could not meet the cost because of financial difficulties aggravated by a slump in oil export revenues.

Gabon, often dubbed "Central Africa's Emirate" with a 1.1 million population and a per capita income of \$4,250 was scheduled to compete in track and field and boxing.

Best chance for a medal was Odette Mistoul, winner of the shot-put gold medal at the last All Africa Games held in 1982 in Cairo.

The ministry is calling home the four athletes currently training in France, the source added.

Gabon is the second Francophone state, with poverty-stricken Niger, to decline to attend the Nairobi games for financial reasons.

Graf survives Hy as seeded nations advance in Federation Cup

VANCOUVER (R) — West German Steffi Graf prevailed over a startling Patricia Hy of Hong Kong, and a recuperating Hana Mandlikova led Czechoslovakia's advance on Monday as first-round play went according to form in the 25th Federation Cup Women's Team Tennis Championship.

Czechoslovakia, West Germany, Argentina and the Soviet Union, seeded second, third, sixth and eighth respectively in the \$325,000 tournament, all won their first-round matches 3-0, with only the West Germans taken further than the minimum six sets.

Czechoslovakia overpowered Sweden, West Germany defeated Hong Kong, Argentina crushed an inexperienced Switzerland and the Soviet Union breezed by Israel as the lower half of the 32-nation main draw opened play on the hard courts of Hollyburn Country Club.

In the day's other matches, South Korea beat Norway and Yugoslavia turned back Poland, both winning 2-1 by taking the deciding doubles.

Host Canada gained the second round, leading The Netherlands 2-0 with their doubles match under way. New Zealand and an exhausted Brazilian team, who arrived without their luggage at dawn, here tied 1-1 with their doubles match still to be completed.

Claudia Kohde-Kilsch gave West Germany a 1-0 lead with a 6-0, 6-2 win over Paulette Moreno, but Graf had a much tougher match than she had expected from a player ranked 79th in the world.

The 18-year-old Graf, the number two player in the world whose loss to Martina Navratilova in the Wimbledon finals was her first in 46 matches, never seemed on track in outlasting the Cambo-

dian-born Hy, 6-7, 6-2, 6-4, in what Hong Kong's number one player called her best match ever.

Hy, 21, reeled off about a dozen backhand winners from the baseline to take the first set on a 7-5 tiebreaker and battled to 4-1 in the third.

"I knew she was going for winners but I didn't expect her to do that well," Graf said. "I wasn't really there all the time today."

Hy was elated by her performance. "It's the best match I've ever played, because she is the highest-ranked player I've ever faced. I think I might have won if I got some more first serves in," she said.

Bettina Bunge and Silke Meier combined to beat Hy and Moreno in the doubles 6-1, 6-1.

Mandlikova, the Australian Open champion who was playing her first match in two months after injuring her left foot, had

some trouble with her service but still beat Caterina Lindqvist of Sweden 6-3, 6-2 to give Czechoslovakia a 2-0 lead in the featured event on the stadium court.

"I'm glad that I'm back playing again," said Mandlikova, who married a Czechoslovak-born Sydney restaurateur at the Federation Cup in Prague last year and has been granted Australian residency as she seeks citizenship there.

Helena Sukova beat Carina Karlsson 6-4, 6-4 in the opening singles, and Mandlikova and Jana Novotna made quick work of Lindstrom and Lindqvist in the doubles, 6-3, 6-2.

Cup-holding United States, seeded first despite the absence of an injured Navratilova, were scheduled to play their opening match on the stadium court on Tuesday against unseeded Japan as the 16 teams in the top half of the draw complete the first round.

Becker condemns Americans' behaviour

BONN (R) — Boris Becker, hero of West Germany's Davis Cup victory over the United States in Connecticut at the weekend, has condemned John McEnroe and his team for whipping their fans into a frenzy.

Becker, interviewed by the West German Sports News Agency SID after winning the deciding singles against Tim Mayotte on Monday night, said the Americans had no right to complain of Davis Cup conditions in Latin America after the way they behaved in the World Group relegation playoff.

"The U.S. players made their compatriots crazy," he said. "They should never complain again about the South Americans."

"It was just as bad as in Mexico or Paraguay. John McEnroe's behaviour was especially disgraceful."

Becker, 19, said the former world number one "is a great player. I admire him as a tennis player but I pity him as a

person."

And of the crowd-inciting behaviour of the U.S. team as a whole, he said: "I find their actions simply a shame, nasty and brutal."

"We are together (on the international circuit) 10 months of the year... and here we are met with hate," Becker added.

"The behaviour of the fans is no big deal, that's normal in the Davis Cup," he said, "but the fans were goaded by McEnroe

and his men."

The International Tennis Federation (ITF) banned Paraguay from hosting another Davis Cup tie this year following incidents during the first round against the United States in Asuncion.

Their quarter-final against Spain at the weekend was played in Caracas, a neutral venue.

West Germany also experienced crowd hostility when they lost to Mexico in Mexico City last year.

2 Americans stopped in S. African bouts

JOHANNESBURG (R) — South Africa's white heavyweight boxing hope Johnny Du Plooy kept his unbeaten professional record when he knocked out American Tyrone Booze in the second round of a scheduled 10-round bout Monday night. Booze was knocked down three times in the second round. Du Plooy became visibly angry when Booze began taunting him and launched a flurry of punches that put the American down for a count of eight. Booze got upright only to be sent back to the canvas under another onslaught. He staggered to his feet once more but Du Plooy's response was unrelenting and this time the American was counted out. In the main supporting bout, South African middleweight champion Gregory Clark recorded an easy technical knock-out victory over American Milton Leaks, also in the second round.

S. Arabia grants Syria \$5 million

RIYADH (R) — Saudi Arabia has given Syria \$5 million towards the cost of the 10th Mediterranean Games to be held in Latakia in September, the Saudi Press Agency SPA has reported. Nearly 5,000 athletes from 17 countries are expected to take part in the biggest sports event ever to be staged by Syria.

Coe hopes to compete in Rome

LONDON (R) — Double Olympic 1,500 metres champion Sebastian Coe of Britain may run in the World Athletics Championships in Rome next month despite an injury. Achilles tendon trouble has prevented Coe, 30, from running competitively for 10 weeks.

Balance, dexterity and looping stunts on show in cycling festival

Text and Photo by Peter Baratta

AMMAN — For most people, bicycles are merely a form of transportation, a manually-powered vehicle used to travel from one place to another.

For participants of cycle-ball and artistic cycling, bicycles become more than just two-wheeled instruments with pedals and handlebars. They become extensions of the riders' bodies, used masterfully and precisely to execute impressive feats of balance and control.

Audiences at the Roman Amphitheatre have been treated to such performances over the last few nights by a West German group of European and World champion artistic cyclists and cycle-ball riders, who are currently visiting Jordan.

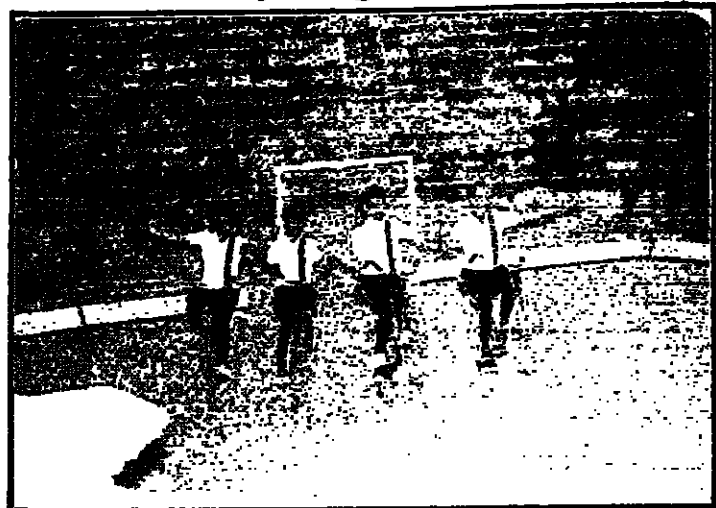
The group, which will hold performances nightly at 7:30 until Thursday, are dedicated perfor-

mers who have spent most of their lives training on bicycles, said Secretary General of the Indoors Cycling International Commission (CIS) Hans Born, the head of the visiting team.

Cycle-ball is played by two teams of two players each. The flow of the game resembles soccer, with both teams attempting to score in the opponent's goal. The players use their bicycles to move around, pass the ball and take and block shots on goal.

The idea of playing soccer on bicycles may sound awkward, but the players possess strength, speed, control and quick reflexes to keep the game at a high level of excitement. In fact, the players are so experienced that their front-tire goal shots at times move faster than soccer shots.

Artistic cycling is perhaps best described as a combination of gymnastics and ballet on wheels. Riders perform to music and use balance, dexterity and concentra-



Cyclists ride backwards on their rear tires, one of the group's many synchronized stunts.

tion to perform many stunts, including handstands on handlebars and riding the bicycle on its front wheel like a unicycle.

Dieter Maute, a world champion artistic cyclist, dazzles the audience with his solo performance. Balancing himself in every conceivable position, the 20-year-old West German performed a wide array of tricks, including using the bicycle as a moving balance beam, holding himself up with his hands and spinning around the handlebars.

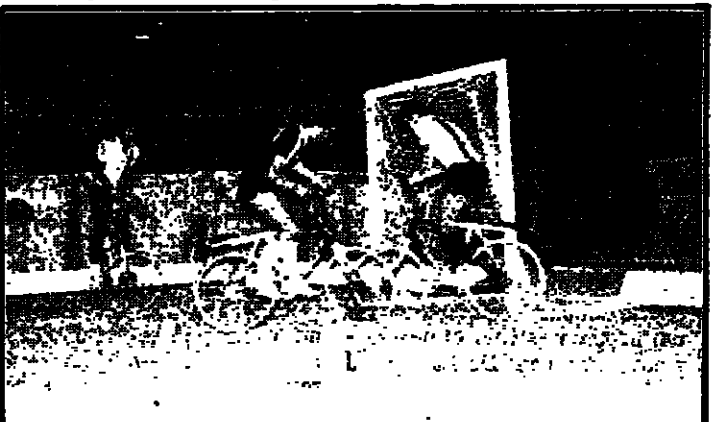
For all the furious and aggressive movement of cycle-ball and the seemingly dangerous positions of artistic cycling, the team has had little problem with falls and has had no serious injuries during the show.

According to Thomas Steinmeier, one of the riders, indoor cyclists are taught very early how to fall from a bicycle and land safely.

Indoor cycling "is no more dangerous than other sports," Mr. Steinmeier said. "You learn at the youngest years how to fall," he said. And although "it looks dangerous, it is not so."

Mr. Jibad Saqer, chairman of the Middle East Academy of Sports (MESA), the organisation sponsoring the event, said the Arab Cycling Federation is trying to popularise and promote indoor cycling throughout the Arab World.

Mr. Saqer said indoor cycling is interesting because it allows the audience to view contrasting events gymnastic and soccer-like events on moving bicycles. It also allows the audience to watch the event from one location, unlike other bicycle events, which stretch over miles and can be viewed from only one place for a short time, he said.



Cycle-ball riders "lock wheels" in an attempt to gain control of the ball.

FRIDAY'S RACES AT THE ROYAL RACING CLUB-TUNEIB

FIRST RACE 4.00 FOR THIRD CLASS HORSES DISTANCE 2000 METRES

| Owner | Horse | Trainer | Jockey | Weight |
|------------------------------|---------------|---------|---------|--------|
| 1. Mohammad Maesh Mirak | I. Faris | Owner | Mahmoud | 57.5 |
| 2. Mohammad Maesh Mirak | S.A. El Salam | Owner | Mosafa | 52.5 |
| 3. Abdullah El Jamany | J. Doby | Owner | Ahmad | 57 |
| 4. Dr. A. El Hafeez A. Wandy | C. Maesh | Owner | Rasheed | 57 |
| 5. Mohammad A. El Einaby | Makadeby | Owner | George | 57 |
| 6. Mohammad A. El Jalil | Sar Saad | Owner | A. Jabr | 57 |
| 7. Basil Yousef Awawdeh | Ghazeeb | Owner | | 54 |

SECOND RACE 4.30 FOR THIRD CLASS HORSES DISTANCE 1000 METRES

| Owner | Horse | Trainer | Jockey | Weight |
|--------------------------------|------------|---------|------------|--------|
| 1. Saif El Deen N. El Ijl | El Samry | Owner | | 56 |
| 2. Saif El Deen N. Ijl | El Rayah | Owner | George | 55 |
| 3. Ghalib Haddadin | Tark | Owner | George | 55 |
| 4. Nimr El Hmoud | Barary | Owner | Mahmoud | 54.5 |
| 5. H.H. Late Sheri Nasr Stabie | Azzih | Owner | Fawaz | 54.5 |
| 6. Naif Anwar El Shalan | El Midalah | Owner | Mohsin | 51.5 |
| 7. Mansour Anwar El Shalan | Mazyoun | Owner | hasim | 50 |
| 8. Wasil Kamal El Bsharat | Mashael | Owner | Khar Eldin | 48.5 |
| 9. Jamal Mohammad El Zabin | El Hamdany | Owner | Rasheed | 56 |

THIRD RACE 5.00 FOR BEGINNER HORSES DISTANCE 1000 METRES

| Owner | Horse | Trainer | Jockey | Weight |
|--------------------------------|-------------|---------|------------|--------|
| 1. Ghalib Haddadin | Dorgham | George | George | 53 |
| 2. Mamdouh Shahr El Hadeed | Khalil | Owner | Ahmad | 53 |
| 3. Mamdouh Shahr El Hadeed | Rohani | Owner | Salim | 51.5 |
| 4. Khalil Haddadin | El Hanry | Owner | Elec | 53 |
| 5. Khalil Haddadin | A. El Maha | Owner | | 50 |
| 6. A. Jabr and Bakheet | Wardih | Owner | | 51.5 |
| 7. H.H. Late Sheri Nasr Stabie | Sabalan | Abbas | | 49.5 |
| 8. H.H. Late Sheri Nasr Stabie | Walsh | Ahmad | Fawaz | 50 |
| 9. Samy Yacoub Madros | A. El Fawaz | Owner | Saad | 50 |
| 10. Kamal Wasil El Bsharat | Shahabak | Owner | Khar Eldin | 50 |
| 11. Wasil Kamal El Bsharat | Qutomir | Owner | Khar Eldin | 50 |
| 12. Nimr El Hmoud | Kamar | Mahmoud | Mahmoud | 48.5 |
| 13. Mohammad Yousef A. Swalin | Rawan | Owner | Yousef | 48.5 |
| 14. Nimr El Hmoud | Kashmei | Mahmoud | A. Jagheel | 48.5 |

FOURTH RACE 5.30 FOR THIRD CLASS HORSES DISTANCE 1000 METRES

| Owner | Horse | Trainer | Jockey | Weight |
|----------------------------|--------------|------------|------------|--------|
| 1. Mishaal El Faez | El Akhtal | Nimh | A. Jabr | 60 |
| 2. Mishaal El Faez | El Zalir | Nimh | | 58 |
| 3. Hany El Hadeed | Dana | Owner | Ahmad | 58.5 |
| 4. Nimr El Hmoud | El Talak | Mahmoud | Mahmoud | 57 |
| 5. Nimr El Hmoud | Aghadeer | Mahmoud | A. Jagheel | 57 |
| 6. Khalil Haddadin | H. Maesh | Owner | Elec | 53 |
| 7. Khalil Haddadin | Dwan | Owner | George | 56 |
| 8. Ghalib Haddadin | Shamash | Owner | George | 55.5 |
| 9. Ghalib Haddadin | Mahboul | Owner | George | 53 |
| 10. Kamal Wasil El Bsharat | H. El Romman | Khar Eldin | Rasheed | 50 |
| 11. Ali Faez El Saad | Sary | Khar Eldin | | 50 |

HALEEM SALFITY & SONS CO. CUP FIFTH RACE 6.00 FOR BEGINNER HORSES DISTANCE 1600 METRES

| Owner | Horse | Trainer | Jockey | Weight |
|------------------------------|---------------|---------|------------|--------|
| 1. Farhan Fakh Oudh | Buze | Owner | Mwatal | 56 |
| 2. Dary Bashree El Shaei | A. El Zawahir | Owner | Salim | 54.5 |
| 3. Fahd Mohammad Khalil | S. Hamzhi | Owner | Yousef | 53 |
| 4. Awwad Mohammad Mohammad | M. Tank | Owner | Dafallah | 53 |
| 5. Salim Awwad Kitalan | Jraiban | Owner | Rasheed | 53 |
| 6. Naef El Hadeed | Mashhour | Owner | Ahmad | 50 |
| 7. Ibrahim Elzozy | Shamikh | Owner | Mahmoud | 50 |
| 8. Abd A. El Rahman | M. Firas | Owner | Fawaz | 50 |
| 9. Lorraine Mohammad Rasheed | Mahboubaty | Owner | George | 48.5 |
| 10. Mamdouh Yousef El Abbady | El Nasah | Owner | Saad | 48.5 |
| 11. Sal Ghazy A. Jabr | M. Naja | Owner | | 48.5 |
| 12. Sal Ghazy A. Jabr | Moharrah | Owner | A. Jagheel | 48.5 |
| 13. Samy Ahmad El Ashwan | A. Hsban | Owner | A. Jabr | 48.5 |

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OFF BEAT
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مكتبة الامم المتحدة

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following were the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midday on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets on Tuesday.

| | | |
|-------------------|---------------|-------------------|
| One Sterling | 1.5985/95 | U.S. dollars |
| One U.S. dollar | 1.3321/26 | Canadian dollar |
| | 1.8570/77 | West German marks |
| | 2.0925/35 | Dutch guilders |
| | 1.5397/5407 | Swiss francs |
| | 38.48/51 | Belgian francs |
| | 6.1770/1800 | French francs |
| | 1344/1345 | Italian lira |
| | 150.60/70 | Japanese yen |
| | 6.4675/4725 | Swedish crowns |
| | 6.8250/8300 | Norwegian crowns |
| | 7.0450/5050 | Danish crowns |
| One ounce of gold | 454.00/454.50 | U.S. dollars |

LONDON STOCK MARKET

LONDON (R) — Share prices surged in late afternoon business, moving ahead after a midsession lull on the back of the sharply higher Wall Street opening, dealers said.

Equities had risen sharply from the opening on Tuesday on bargain hunting after Monday's lull and ahead of the confederation of British industry's quarterly survey which many operators had anticipated would be bullish on the U.K. economy.

The CBI said it was optimistic that output and orders growth will continue in the coming months, which analysts said tempered some of the recent fears over inflation. By 1420 GMT the FTSE 100 index was up 28.9 to Tuesday's high of 2,362.8.

Dealers said participants took heart from the absence of indications in the survey that Britain's economy is overheating. Last week's U.K. trade figures showing a current account deficit raised inflation worries and hit share prices hard on Monday.

Gains of up to 1/16 point in government bonds gave support to the equity market as did better than expected half year trading figures from National Westminster Bank.

Natwest reported pretax profits of £251 million in the six months to the end of June against £482 million previously, well ahead of the £127 million pretax forecast by some analysts.

Iraqi oil flows through second Turkish pipeline

BAGHDAD (R) — Iraq's second oil pipeline through Turkey was commissioned Monday with oil reaching the Mediterranean terminal at Iskenderun, the official Iraqi News Agency (INA) reported.

The new pipeline with a capacity of 500,000 barrels per day (b/d) boosted Iraq's oil export ability through Turkey to 1.5 million b/d.

Oil Minister Issam Abdul Rahim Al Chalabi said in a message to President Saddam Hussein: "Iraqi oil through the second pipeline reached the loading terminal on the Turkish shores at the Mediterranean at 10 o'clock this morning."

He said that with the completion of this project combined with

other procedures he did not define, Iraq was nearing its pre-war export capacity of around three million b/d.

Iraq's seven-year-old war with Iran has cut its exports through the Gulf, while a pipeline through Syria to the Mediterranean has also been closed.

It has maintained exports via its first pipeline through Turkey and another line through Saudi Arabia to the Red Sea port of Yanbu. Saudi Arabia and Kuwait have also been pumping oil on behalf of Iraq from their joint Neutral Zone field.

Iraq has refused to accept its current OPEC assigned quota of 1.54 million b/d, demanding a share equal to Iran's 2.37 million.

Aquino assails creditors

MANILA, Philippines (AP) — President Corazon Aquino lashed out at the country's foreign creditors Monday, accusing them of taking undue and unfair advantage of the Philippines' economic difficulties.

Mrs. Aquino made the charge in her "state of the nation" address at the opening session of a new U.S.-style congress elected in May.

"It is my sad duty to report to you that the results of the recently concluded debt negotiations are far short of expectations and, more importantly, of our urgent needs," Mrs. Aquino said.

She was referring to the July 17 signing in New York of a loan rescheduling agreement between the Philippines and a committee

representing more than 300 commercial banks.

The agreement rescheduled \$9.3 billion in loans maturing between January 1987 and December 1992 as a new credit repayable over 17 years with an interest rate of 0.875 per cent over the London Inter Bank Offered Rate. The agreement involved extending \$3 billion in short-term credits for another four years.

The Philippines had asked for a longer repayment period and lower interest. It has a foreign debt of \$28 billion and has been complaining that interest payments alone eat up nearly half of its export earnings, leaving little to expand businesses or open new ones.

Venezuelan, Mexican chiefs call for shared debt burden

MEXICO CITY (R) — The presidents of Venezuela and Mexico have called for the international financial community to ease Latin America's debt burden to stimulate growth in the region.

Venezuela's Jaime Lusinchi and Mexico's Miguel De La Madrid, speaking Monday night at a dinner marking the beginning of President Lusinchi's four-day visit here, said Latin American growth and political stability are more important than debt repayments.

"We insist that in order to pay it is necessary to grow, that our first commitment is to respond to the legitimate requirements of our people in favour of development," President De La Madrid said.

Mexico is Latin America's second largest debtor, after Brazil, owing \$103 billion, while Venezuela ranks fourth, with a

foreign debt of \$33.1 billion. In their speeches, the two leaders stressed the need for compromise to avoid confrontation between developed countries and the Third World on debt matters.

"It is indispensable to find a sensible balance between the demands of debt payments and the requirements for progress and well-being of our populations that cannot be postponed," President Lusinchi said.

"This is a matter that does not admit unilateral decisions, which calls for means of understanding and agreement," he said.

President De La Madrid, meanwhile, spoke of the need for a "new focus" and "innovative responses" to the region's debt problem.

"In this, as in other fields, Latin America still has much to say," he said.

OPEC wants to shape oil market

TOKYO (R) — The Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) should make more effort to influence the oil market rather than merely react to it, its president, Mr. Riwalim Lukman said Monday.

The price and extraction rate of oil "should not be left to be determined by traders, middlemen and speculators," the OPEC chief said in a speech to an industry body.

The interests of such people "have so far not shown any convergence towards the short and long-term interest of the peoples of the producing and consuming countries," he said.

OPEC decisions from 1980-1986 "may have seemed synonymous with passive reactions to market developments brought about by ... disruptive policies of some major consumers and non-OPEC oil producers," he said.

UNCTAD remains divided

GENEVA (Agencies) — Major differences still divide rich and poor countries attending the U.N. Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) with the focus on whether it should direct action to cure the world's economic problems or merely assess their nature and extent, delegates here said.

After nearly three weeks, four key committees covering trade, debt, commodities and least developed countries have completed their work without agreement.

A small group under conference chairman, Mr. Bernard Chidzero, Zimbabwe's minister of finance, economic planning and development, is now working against time to find common ground for an acceptable conclusion.

The conference is due to end Friday but with Mr. Chidzero due to fly to Harare Tuesday on a one-day trip to present his annual budget, delegates said it is likely to overshoot its deadline.

But the United States, with a relatively low-ranking delegation, is committed to departing on Saturday, leaving UNCTAD to conclude its work or risk American non-participation in its final document, a U.S. official said.

Some committee work broke down over the weekend. Developing country officials said developed nations were only prepared to analyse problems rather than say what action should be taken.

Western delegates say developing countries had clear warning

not to expect too much from the seventh UNCTAD.

So far the most significant development at the conference has been the support given to UNCTAD's Common Fund for Commodities which was launched at the fourth UNCTAD in Nairobi and negotiated here in 1980.

UNCTAD commodity head, Mr. Havelock Brewster of Guyana, told Reuters reaching the ratification process was just a formality following support given over the past two weeks, with first payments in the fund being made about the end of the year.

This has been welcomed by heads of the international cocoa and sugar organisations as a way to boost consumption and diversify economies respectively.

In an independent report Japanese chairman, Mr. Makoto Taniguchi, of the UNCTAD committee on resources, which includes the vital topic of debt, called for responsible action by debtors and creditors.

Discussions have focused on ways of recycling the huge trade surplus of countries like Japan and lessening or restructuring the debt burden of the poorest countries.

Mr. Taniguchi's report said

debt restructuring must be tailored to each country's needs but debtor nations must raise savings and investment, reduce inflation and improve efficiency.

At the same time official and private lending had to be increased and major developed nations must support the growth and stability of the world economy.

But his report, while marking some convergences of views, was submitted to the president's contact group with a series of addenda outlined the diverging views of many of the delegations.

The commodity committee produced a report with little apparent agreement although delegates said this disguised progress made before the meeting broke up late Saturday. The other two committees ended with developed and developing countries still holding separate positions.

Kuwait calls for joint action to ease world economic crisis

Kuwait has appealed for "constructive cooperation" between developed countries and the Third World in a bid to overcome the current international economic crisis.

In a speech delivered Monday on behalf of Kuwaiti Commerce and Industry Minister Faisal Abdul Razak Al Khaled, it was emphasised that international economic development depended

on industrialised countries helping those "that are less fortunate."

Sheikh Al Khaled pointed out that the international monetary system needed to be reorganised to guarantee flow of capital to Third World states.

The address, read to delegates on the minister's behalf by Kuwait's permanent representative to the U.N.'s European headquarters, Dr. Salem Jaber Al Ahmad Al Sabah, pointed out that hurdles had been created in the Third World's march towards progress by the adverse pressures put on developing states.

Protectionist measures, restrictions and difficult conditions applied by developed countries, he said, impeded international development and led to "economic deterioration worldwide."

Sheikh Al Khaled warned that international development would not be fulfilled "unless the rich and the poor work jointly," stressing the need for establishing a new international economic order.

Kuwait, he asserted, had made "every effort" to enhance development cooperation between both sides and had assisted Third World states in implementing economic and social development plans.

He said despite the fall in international oil prices, Kuwait had continued to fund development plans and had allocated some 3.8 per cent of its gross national product between 1983 and 1985 for this purpose.

W. German trade surplus widens

BONN (R) — West Germany Monday posted a 9.5 per cent rise in its trade surplus for the first six months of this year compared to the year before and economists said 1987's trade surplus would probably match last year's record high level.

In the first six months of 1987, the trade surplus rose to \$5.5 billion marks (\$30 billion) from \$5.0 billion (\$27.4 billion) in the same period last year, according to the Federal Statistics Office.

Like Japan's, the West German surplus contrasts with the deficit being run by the United States. The Reagan administration has repeatedly called on Bonn to stimulate domestic demand for goods in its economy, to boost imports and ease the global trade imbalances.

Economists said the trade surplus showed few signs of narrowing.

But as import prices fell on

average by around 10 per cent in this period, imports rose by just under four per cent in real terms, while exports were unchanged in real terms, the statistics office said.

Mr. Ute Geipel, head of research at Citibank A.G. in Frankfurt, said it was significant that exports were stagnant in real terms in the first six months of 1987 despite the additional strength of the mark.

The stronger mark has not hit West Germany's export-oriented economy as hard as many economists predicted.

In June, West Germany posted a trade surplus of a provisional 8.3 billion marks (\$4.4 billion), down from 10.6 billion marks (\$5.7 billion) in May and 9.9 billion marks (\$5.3 billion) in June 1986.

Reuters posts 42.6% profit rise

LONDON (R) — Reuters Holdings Plc, the news and financial information organisation, Monday announced pre-tax profits of £81.6 million (\$130.6 million) for the first half of 1987, up 42.6 per cent on the same period last year.

Revenue, at £400.4 million (\$640.6 million), was 49.3 per cent higher.

Analysts had predicted first-half profits of between £70 and £74 million (\$122 and \$128 m).

"Demand from the financial markets was strong for Reuters information and dealing products and for clients systems produced

by our subsidiary Rich Inc.," managing director and chief executive, Mr. Glen Renfrew, said.

He said the company did not expect results for the whole year to match the big percentage gains of the first half, which were influenced by a particularly strong performance in the second half of 1986.

"However, new orders are buoyant and, subject to currency and other uncertainties, we do expect continued good progress," Mr. Renfrew said.

Financial controller Chris Thomas said revenue growth in

Europe was particularly strong, rising from £141.6 million (\$226.6 million) in the first half of 1986 to £226.4 million (\$362.2 million).

Reuters earned 56 per cent of its revenue providing information about money, including foreign exchange and international and domestic deposit rates.

Mr. Renfrew said the company was working hard to integrate recent acquisitions — Instinet in the United States and I.P. Sharp Associates and Securities Clearing International Corporation in Canada — into worldwide networks.

Dr. Galbraith told the governors: "If anything, the other countries are more in touch with agricultural reality than we are. There, as with us, for a full 50 years, there has been a steady movement away from the free market."

"No country, not Canada, not the EC, not Japan, not Switzerland ... leaves its farmers to the market. Every country has moved in to have some control over the price, the returns to farmers," he said.

"This, not hopeful or vacuous oratory on the free market, will continue to rule," he said.

YOUR DAILY Horoscope

from the Carroll Righter Institute

FORECAST FOR WEDNESDAY, JULY 29, 1987.

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Some delays or unpleasant conditions this morning could cause anxiety, but later in the day you'll be able to control things pretty much as you wish. Be well-rounded.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) Be sure to keep any promises you have made to your family. Breaking them could cause a lot of tension.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) Your mate may be in a poor mood this morning, but don't argue. Try to humor him or her and the evening will be happy.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) Some friends who you really enjoy would be just the thing to brighten up the mood at home, so invite them in.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to Jul. 21) A message you receive this morning may cause some worries, but try to put them behind you.

LEO (Jul. 22 to Aug. 21) Be very wary of strangers this evening. Caution should be used in any investments you make today on advice from friends.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) Don't ask questions of someone you dislike; just avoid this individual. He'd probably be wrong anyway.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) Take some time to think over your situation. Perhaps a quiet conversation with a good friend would help matters.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) You may meet with opposition when going after a goal this morning, so plan your strategy well in advance.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) Someone you're counting on for support may not agree with you this morning, but there may be a change of heart.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) You have some piled up work which needs attention. Finish it early so the afternoon will be all yours.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) Your mate may not agree with your plan at the start, but when properly informed, he or she will be enthusiastic.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) Don't let an annoyed partner interfere with your scheduling. An opportunity will arise after lunch.

IF YOUR CHILD IS BORN TODAY ... he or she will have great organizational ability and a talent for delegating authority. Teach your child early not to be overly critical of others, but rather to have patience and explain what is desired. A musical ability is indicated, so you may want to supply training.

THE Daily Crossword by Diane C. Baldwin

ACROSS

- Numerical prefix
- Peas
- Hamburg
- Jazz
- Arterial trunk
- Sharper
- Play safe
- Primer texts
- Pour
- Heights
- Am. ship
- Inter
- Titles
- Graces
- Redemption
- Victims
- Opera favorite
- Cleopatra's transport
- Punt
- Accessory
- Flirt with danger
- Snigger's catch
- Compass point
- Questions
- Alms
- Swear
- Art product
- Theater sign
- Best warning
- Dots
- Golf
- bankrupt
- Arabian gulf
- Skirt style
- Captain
- Bliss abbr.
- Wyo. range
- Cinch

DOWN

- Double's fare
- Follow
- Proceeds
- Seth's brother
- Gaulish touch
- Titans of a sport
- Bows
- Depot abbr.
- End of cologne
- Eastern religion
- Eng. Robin
- Singer Murray
- Disorder
- Political
- reward
- Asian capital
- Value
- Downs or
- Hefner
- Instance
- Backpacker
- Allan
- Berets
- Runner
- Flour holders
- Carried
- Musical notation
- Basen
- Anon
- Turner or Cole
- Shade maker
- Crusling
- Flower
- Docs
- Dictator's aide
- Attired
- to commune
- Crusling
- Master's weapon
- Rah!

Yesterday's Puzzle Solved:

ACROSS

- NUMEROUS
- PEAS
- HAMBURG
- JAZZ
- ARTERIAL
- SHARPER
- PLAY SAFE
- PRIMER
- PUR
- HEIGHTS
- AMERICAN
- INTER
- TITLES
- GRACES
- REDEMPTION
- VICTIMS
- OPERA
- CLEOPATRA
- PUNT
- ACCESSORY
- FLIRT
- SNIGGER
- COMPASS
- QUESTIONS
- ALMS
- SWEAR
- ART
- THEATER
- BEST
- DOTS
- GOLF
- BANKRUPT
- ARABIAN
- SKIRT
- CAPTAIN
- BLISS
- WYOMING
- CINCH

DOWN

- DOUBLE
- FOLLOW
- PROCEEDS
- SETH
- GAULISH
- TITANS
- BOWS
- DEPOT
- EASTERN
- ENG
- SINGER
- DISORDER
- POLITICAL
- REWARD
- ASIAN
- VALUE
- DOWN
- HEFNER
- INSTANCE
- BACKPACK
- ALLAN
- BERET
- RUNNER
- FLOUR
- CARRIED
- MUSICAL
- BASEN
- ANON
- TURNER
- SHADE
- CRUSLING
- FLOWER
- DOCS
- DICTATOR
- ATTIRED
- COMMUNE
- CRUSLING
- MASTER
- RAH

Peanuts



Mutt'n' Jeff

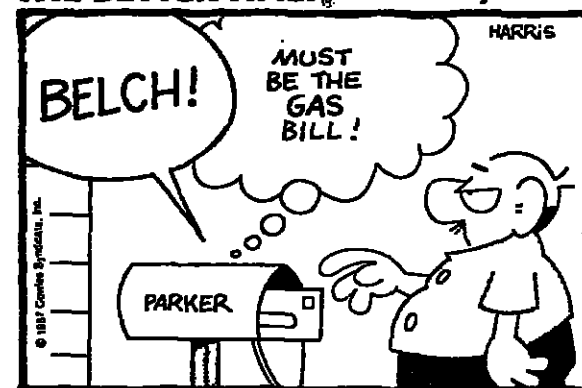


Andy Capp



THE BETTER HALF

By Harris

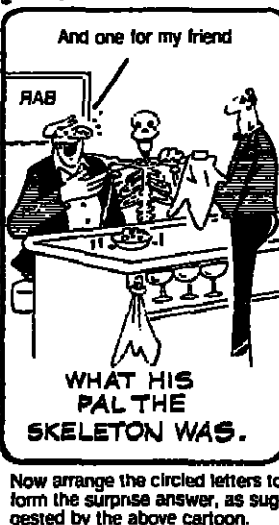


JUMBLE

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by Henri Arnold and Bob Lee

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

UROCC
SCOUF
TUNBOY
CORNAY



Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Answer here: A

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: NOBLE FEWER JETSAM FIRING

Answer: What big prison buildings usually have that prisoners would also like to have—WINGS

Manila to get tough on U.S. bases

MANILA (Agencies) — The future of U.S. military bases in the Philippines is likely to determine ties between the two countries, President Corason Aquino's spokesman said Tuesday.

Teodoro Benigno said Mrs. Aquino, who has called on her American allies to provide more military and economic aid to rebuild the Philippine economy and help Manila fight Communist insurgents, had reached a "threshold" in patience.

"There is a gap between what the Americans are promising and what they have delivered so far," Mr. Benigno told reporters.

"The bases question will certainly be taken into very serious consideration in determining the future shape of Philippine-American relations," he said.

Mr. Benigno spoke hours after U.S. representative Stephen Solarz said Washington was looking at possible new locations for the bases, the largest American military installations outside the continental United States.

The new Philippine congress, which opened Monday, is to decide on whether or not to renew the bases agreement, which expires in 1991.

Many in congress, the country's first elected legislature in 15 years, promised during election campaigns to get tough with the United States by either throwing out the bases or demanding better terms for their stay.

Washington is hoping for the best, but is planning ahead in case of bad news, U.S. diplomats said.

"The bases play an important role in helping the U.S. preserve the peace and monitor the balance of power in Asia," Mr. Solarz, head of a U.S. congressional delegation here for the opening of congress, said Monday.

"We think it is in the interests of both countries to keep them here, but ultimately, the Filipino people will have to decide," he said.

U.S. diplomats say Washington is carrying out in-depth studies on other potential homes for Clark Air Force Base and Subic Naval Base, which are used as staging points for U.S. military exercises in the region.

Possible alternatives being looked at by Washington include the Pacific islands of Guam and Palau, but U.S. military sources say such relocations would mean having to split up the bases and settle for inferior conditions.

Subic on the west coast of Luzon, the Philippines' largest island, has one of the finest natural deep water ports in the world and Clark nearby has thousands of acres of land for air force exercises.

"If you look at U.S. bases from South Korea and Japan down to Guam, you can see that moving the bases from this spot would leave a huge hole in the defence of the region," one U.S. military official told Reuters.

He said a possible move to Guam, for instance, 2,500 kilometres east of Philippines, would take U.S. forces far from possible hostilities in the South China Sea and the strategic Strait of Malacca between Malaysia and Indonesia.

"If something happened there and we had to respond, it would take air force planes about nine or ten hours roundtrip from Guam. From the Philippines, you're talking about two or three hours tops," the official said.

Mrs. Aquino has ordered the military to take all necessary measures to prevent the escape of a captured renegade colonel linked to right-wing plots to topple her government, her spokesman said Tuesday.

Mr. Benigno told the reporters that upon learning of the capture of former Col. Rolando Abadilla on Monday, Mrs. Aquino immediately phoned Lt.-Gen. Rolando De Villa, the vice chief of staff, "to make sure that Col. Abadilla does not escape or attempt to escape."

"I must say I am very pleased with the capture of Abadilla," Mr. Benigno quoted Mrs. Aquino as telling him and other officials Tuesday.

He said Mrs. Aquino had invited the officers directly involved in the capture to the presidential palace later Tuesday to personally commend them.

Meanwhile, Col. Aniano Desierto of the military judge advocate general's office said he was preparing charges of illegal possession of firearms as well as subversion and mutiny against Col. Abadilla, who was being held under 24-hour guard at a suburban military camp.

Subversion and mutiny are punishable by life imprisonment under an executive order Mrs. Aquino signed a few days ago.

Col. Abadilla, intelligence officer for the Manila area under deposed President Ferdinand Marcos, was dropped from the military rolls in May after being absent without leave for months.

He was a leading figure in the July 1986 coup attempt at the Manila Hotel and was linked to several more plots to topple Mrs. Aquino and restore Marcos to power.

Col. Abadilla went into hiding with two other officers — Lt.-

Col. Reynaldo Cabanatan and Brig.-Gen. Jose Zumel — after soldiers attacked two Manila-area military garrisons and took over a broadcast complex in an unsuccessful coup bid in January.

Manila area commander Brig.-Gen. Alexander Aguirre said Col. Abadilla was arrested at his suburban Manila home, which had been under surveillance for a month. He said Col. Abadilla, who had an M-16 rifle, three pistols and a carbine in his home, offered no resistance.

In a separate development, government troops killed five Communist guerrillas in a skirmish shortly before a land mine explosion killed 18 soldiers in another province, the military reported Tuesday.

The report said troops recovered the body of one of the rebels but the others were carried away by the insurgents after the fighting Monday in Tayabas town, Quezon province, 96 kilometres south-east of Manila.

One M-16 rifle and one .45-caliber pistol were found at the site of the clash, the report said. It added that more soldiers were sent to the area, a Communist stronghold, to pursue the rebels.

In northern Kalinga-Apayao province, 18 soldiers were killed Monday and six were wounded by a land mine planted by rebels.

A military report said the soldiers were on their way to help an army company besieged by the rebels.

Bus crash in Brazil kills 51

RIO DE JANEIRO, Brazil (AP) — A bus carrying religious pilgrims crashed head-on into another bus in east-central Brazil, killing at least 51 people and injuring dozens of others, highway police said Sunday.

The accident occurred on Sunday night on an interstate highway about 40 kilometres south of Belo Horizonte, Brazil's third-largest city.

Patrolman Helio Sueleno said Monday a bus carrying pilgrims from a religious festival apparently got into the wrong lane and collided with a bus from Rio carrying 40 passengers.

"The pilgrims' bus was overloaded, but we don't know how many people were on it because victims are scattered all over in different hospitals," Sueleno said in an interview from Belo Horizonte, 464 kilometres north west of Rio.

Panamanian troops attack home of renegade colonel

PANAMA CITY (R) — Government troops attacked the home of a renegade army colonel who has accused Panamanian strongman General Manuel Antonio Noriega of murder and other crimes, witnesses said.

There were conflicting reports about the circumstances and outcome of the attack on the home of Col. Roberto Diaz Herrera, the military's former second-in-command.

Alvin Weeden, Col. Diaz's lawyer, told reporters Col. Diaz had been wounded in the attack but that he had no way of knowing the extent of his injuries.

He said his client had been taken to the attorney general's office, apparently to face criminal charges. Mr. Weeden said he had been denied access to Col. Diaz and based his information solely on reports from the Roman Catholic Church.

The military announced this afternoon that 45 people were arrested in the attack.

Col. Diaz, 49, a cousin of the late Panamanian leader General Omar Torrijos Herrera, had been holed-up inside his palatial home surrounded by bodyguards ever since he unleashed his accusations against Gen. Noriega on June 7.

A report read over government television by Maj. Edgardo Lopez, head of the military press office, said an unspecified quantity of arms had been confiscated at Col. Diaz's home after a brief shootout that lasted seven minutes and ended at 7:17 a.m. local time (12:17 GMT).

The report contradicted witnesses' accounts who said the shooting outside Col. Diaz's home in the exclusive Altos Del Golf district of the capital lasted more than four hours.

There were unconfirmed reports that as many as six people died in the shootout, but the military communiqué said "there were no deaths or injuries from gunshots."

Maj. Lopez confirmed in an interview late Monday evening that Col. Diaz had been placed "under the attorney general's custody."

Maj. Lopez denied reports the former colonel had been injured or roughed up, however, saying, "We don't do that kind of thing."

He said it was likely that Col. Diaz would face a variety of criminal charges including illegal weapons possession and sedition.

A military list with the names of the 45 people, apart from Col. Diaz, who were detained included several of Col. Diaz's family members. It also included Norma Nunez Montoto, a correspondent for a small Latin American news agency and member of the local Foreign Correspondents' Association.

A university professor and Ham radio operator said the siege ended at about 9:35 a.m.

Nakasone successor to be named on Oct. 31

TOKYO (R) — Japan's ruling Liberal Democratic Party will install a successor to Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone as its leader at a convention on Oct. 31, a party spokesman said Tuesday.

The new party president will later be elected prime minister by parliament because of the LDP majority.

The LDP's decision-making Executive Council formally decided the primary election of the president by all party card-carriers would be held on Oct. 28 and a run-off election by LDP legislators on Oct. 30.

However, the final election date could be advanced to any time after Oct. 8, when the registration of candidates is closed, if the primary is not held. Under party rules a primary is not necessary if the number of candidates is three or less.

Major contenders to succeed Mr. Nakasone, whose term ends on Oct. 30, are Finance Minister Kiichi Miyazawa, former Finance Minister Noboru Takeshita and former Foreign Minister Shintaro Abe.

A fourth but minor contender is former LDP Vice-President Susumu Nakai.

A newspaper survey published Tuesday showed Mr. Miyazawa was favoured as next prime minister by 39.5 per cent of 44 business leaders because of his economic expertise, followed by Mr. Abe with 18.4 per cent for his diplomatic finesse and Mr. Takeshita with 10.5 per cent for the biggest number of followers within the LDP.

Earlier this month Mr. Takeshita formed a 113-member faction within the LDP, which has 446 members in parliament.

India to send observers to Sri Lanka — Gandhi

NEW DELHI (R) — Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi said Tuesday that India would send observers to Sri Lanka to help monitor the progress of a pact aimed at ending the island's ethnic fighting.

Mr. Gandhi also indicated that a peace-keeping force could be established in Sri Lanka but gave no other details about the observers or the force, said Sharda Prasad, information adviser to the prime minister.

Mr. Prasad told reporters Mr. Gandhi would go ahead with his plan to leave for Colombo Wednesday to sign the pact to end the island's four-year-old Tamil separatist rebellion which has claimed more than 6,000 lives.

Mr. Gandhi, who said Indian opposition leaders generally backed the peace plan, accused Velupillai Prabhakaran, leader of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), of reneging on an earlier promise to accept the pact, Mr. Prasad added.

He quoted Mr. Gandhi as telling Indian opposition leaders: "LTTE has some assurances on withdrawal of (Sri Lankan) forces on which we got Sri Lanka to agree... LTTE consists of only 2,000 young people and barring them, all other Tamil groups have welcomed the proposal."

The pact, proposed by Colombo and backed by India which has been mediating in the conflict, envisages setting up an autonomous council for northern and eastern provinces where most of Sri Lanka's Tamils live.

Mr. Prabhakaran had three days of talks with Indian officials in New Delhi but rejected the plan, saying he disagreed with a condition that the guerrillas should surrender their arms.

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Mr. Prabhakaran had three days of talks with Indian officials in New Delhi but rejected the plan, saying he disagreed with a condition that the guerrillas should surrender their arms.

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Snake fight stops traffic in Goa

PANAJI, India (R) — A three-hour fight between a cobra and a rat snake outside a tourist hotel brought traffic to a standstill in Mapuca, a town in the former Portuguese colony of Goa, witnesses have said. "The snakes fought from three to six on Saturday evening. There was a traffic jam and spectators blocked the roads, stopping their cars and motorcycles to watch," said John Borges, a guard at the hotel. Hindus consider cobras sacred and believe interfering with them could lead to divine retribution. Perhaps for that reason police declined to interfere and nobody was willing to pay the 50 rupees (\$4) demanded by a local snake charmer to separate the reptiles. The snakes eventually called it quits and the fight ended in a draw.

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Tanker hit by U.S. Navy planes during exercises

TOKYO (R) — U.S. Navy planes were conducting bombing practice off Japan when a Malaysian freighter was hit by a projectile near Okinawa, southern Japan, a U.S. military spokesman said Tuesday.

He said the U.S. Navy was cooperating with Japanese authorities to investigate an incident Monday night that badly injured one of the Pomer Saga's 21 Filipino crewmen.

The spokesman said in a state-

ment that the freighter "reported an incident involving an unidentified aircraft dropping an object on the ship."

Japan's Maritime Safety Agency said earlier at least two shots, believed to be rockets from unidentified aircraft, hit the 5,922 tonne freighter as it cruised near Okinawa on its way from Taiwan to Nagoya in Japan.

The bridge and a toilet were hit and projectile fragments were found aboard, the agency said.

Pinochet bodyguard shot dead

SANTIAGO (Agencies) — A member of President Augusto Pinochet's personal security squad was shot dead by supposed leftist guerrillas, police said.

Police Sergeant Tolosa Sepulveda was ambushed by four hooded men in a street in a suburb of Santiago, according to an official communiqué.

Police source said Sepulveda had worked as a member of the president's bodyguard.

Responsibility for the attack,

which the communiqué said was carried out by terrorists, was not immediately claimed by any group.

In the past, responsibility for such killings has been claimed by either the Manuel Rodriguez Patriotic Front (FPMR) or the Revolutionary Left Movement (MLR) guerrilla groups.

In a separate development the West German Foreign Ministry said Monday there is mounting evidence that 14 prisoners facing the death sentence in Chile were tortured by authorities.

GOREN BRIDGE